

STARS AND STRIPES®

Roundup of Saturday's high school sports

Pages 43-45



President Bush

Candidates on the offensive in second debate

Pages 14-15



Sen. John Kerry

Americans in Spain hit by phone scam

Page 3

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2004

\$1.00

Historic day in Afghanistan



U.S. troops watch over election soured by charges of fraud

Pages 6-7



American troops didn't guard voting sites Saturday during Afghanistan's first direct presidential election, but many patrolled past polls, augmenting Afghan police and army forces on the streets to discourage terrorist attacks. Top: Sgt. Michael Billingsly, 125th Signal Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, passes Asadabad's main polling station. Left: An Afghan woman wearing a burqa casts her ballot at a polling station in Kabul. Right: Behind a makeshift booth, an Afghan refugee casts his vote at a camp in Peshawar, Pakistan.

TOP: TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes; LEFT AND RIGHT: AP photos

STARS & STRIPES

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TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....22
American Roundup24-25
Classified33-36
ComicsStripes Comics
CrosswordScene
Horoscope22
Letters28
Opinion29
Personality Parade27
Sports37-48
TV listings26
Weather32
Your Money30-31

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Gay marriage: Laws limiting marriage to a man and a woman do not violate California's constitution, but neither would a law allowing same-sex couples to marry, according to the state attorney general.

Attorney General Bill Lockyer issued the opinion Friday, a long-awaited response to a pair of lawsuits out of San Francisco challenging laws that ban gay marriage.

Lockyer pointed out there has been any violation of California's constitution, but at the same time saying the state Legislature has taken significant steps toward granting full spousal benefits to gay couples who register as domestic partners.

Pedophile trial: A federal judge rejected a plea deal for a former Baltimore school teacher who admitted traveling to Asia to have sex with boys.

U.S. District Judge Andre Davis said Richard Schmidt, 61, deserved a prison sentence longer than 8 to 12 years in prison.

Schmidt, who pleaded guilty in July to two charges connected to his molestation of a 13-year-old Cambodian boy, would have served about 10 years if sentenced to the maximum allowed under the agreement.

Davis said he would be willing to sentence Schmidt to 17 1/2 years in prison. He postponed sentencing to give attorneys time to come to a new agreement.

Dog beheading case: A man who beheaded the German shepherd he had named for his girlfriend was sentenced Friday to 25 years to life under the state's three-strikes law.

James Abernathy, 43, of La Habra, was convicted in June of felony animal cruelty for killing the dog, named Marie, after a fight with his girlfriend. Abernathy would have faced a maximum of six years if not for two prior convictions in 1986 for assault with a deadly weapon.

Church sex abuse: The nation's Roman Catholic bishops said Friday they will spend the next nine months deciding whether to make any changes in the policy they enacted at the height of the clergy sex abuse crisis that includes permanently barring guilty priests from church work.

The review was mandated in the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," the document the bishops adopted at an emotional June 2002 assembly in Dallas. The prelates' aim was to restore badly shaken trust in their leadership. The 2002 policy required dioceses to put safeguards in place against abuse and hire victim assistance coordinators. Among other reforms, it outlined the process bishops should follow in investigating molestation claims. But the centerpiece of the plan was a pledge that any priest who molested a minor would never again be allowed to serve in ministry.

NASA inspector trial: A former NASA safety inspector accused of falsifying examinations of crucial parts on the space shuttle Discovery pleaded not guilty Friday in federal court, and his attorney called him "meticulous in his work."

A trial for Billy T. Thornton, 54, was set for December. Prosecutors say the 15-year NASA veteran lied about inspections he should have done from October 2002 to May 2003 — a span during which the shuttle Columbia blew apart during reentry, killing seven astronauts. He was fired in September 2003.

World

Philippine cease-fire: A senior Philippine official welcomed a team of Malaysian Sat-



Haiti violence: Haitian police arrest a group of people during a mid-week operation in Port-au-Prince with Brazilian peacekeepers. Police found a father and son beheaded in a slum of Haiti's capital, officials said Saturday, bringing to at least seven the number decapitated in more than a week of violence as loyalists of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide press demands for his return. The latest killings brought the death toll to at least 26 amid violence since Aristide loyalists stepped up protests Sept. 30.

urday who will monitor a cease-fire between the government and Muslim rebels aimed at ending three decades of separatist violence in the southern Philippines.

Malaysia is brokering peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF, has provided a venue for formal negotiations and has been credited for its help in pushing the rebels to the negotiating table.

A team of 50 police, military and government officials arrived in Manila Saturday to oversee the cease-fire in key cities across the southern Philippines for a year.

South Korean nuke investigation: The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said on Friday that South Korea's recently disclosed work with uranium and plutonium did not appear to be part of a weapons program, describing it as "simply two scientific experiments on a small scale."

"I don't think we have seen any intentions to develop nuclear weapons" by South Korea, the director general of the IAEA, Mohamed ElBaradei, told reporters in Tokyo after completing an official trip to the South Korean capital, Seoul. "What we have seen are experiments that have to do with separation of plutonium and making uranium. These experiments by themselves are not illegal."

South Korea's failure to report it promptly, some nuclear experts say, could constitute a violation of international law.

Tiananmen Square protest: President Hu Jintao said Saturday that China has no plans to reverse its ruling that the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests were a subversive riot.

It was the first time that Hu, who became head of the ruling Communist Party in 2002 and chief of China's military last month, publicly addressed the issue of the 1989 demonstrations.

Speaking at a joint news conference with French President Jacques Chirac, Hu didn't mention the military assault. But he said the government's "decisive measures" in 1989 laid the basis for the economic boom of the 1990s.

Indonesia terror arrest: Police have ar-

rested the wife of one of Southeast Asia's most wanted terror suspects and plan to charge her in connection with last year's suicide bombing at the J.W. Marriott hotel in the Indonesian capital, police said Saturday.

Munifatu Al Fitri, the second wife of Malaysian militant Noordin Mohamed Top, will be charged with hiding her husband after the Aug. 5 blast in Jakarta, which killed 12 people and injured more than 100, said police anti-terror chief Brig. Gen. Pranowo.

Russian school terror case: Russian prosecutors opened a criminal negligence case against three top-ranking police officers in the southern region of Ingushetia in connection with the seizure last month of more than 1,000 hostages in a school in neighboring Beslan, police said Friday.

Last month's seizure of the school by heavily armed attackers ended in a hail of explosions and gunfire, killing more than 330 people.

Taiwan-China relations: Taiwan's leader on Saturday promised to make an "important announcement" in his National Day speech that will improve icy relations with rival China and strengthen ties with the United States — the island's most important friend.

But President Chen Shui-bian was tight-lipped about the content of Sunday's speech, which will likely be closely monitored by Chinese leaders, who deeply distrust Chen and refuse to talk to him. The two sides split in 1949, and Beijing says Taiwan must unify eventually or suffer a devastating attack.

Military

U.S. missile defense: The U.S. military has begun a series of exercises with its missile defense system to move it a step closer to activation.

The exercises involve testing crews and activating the network of sensors and command centers to ensure they transfer information properly, Rick Lehner, a spokesman for the Missile Defense Agency, said Friday.

Although five ballistic missile interceptors are in their silos at Fort Greely, Alaska, they are not yet operational because their arming pins have not been removed, so the system is not considered "on alert" yet, Lehner said.

Stories and photos from wire reports

Navy warns Americans in Spain of telephone scam

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain—The Navy is warning Americans stationed in Spain to watch out for a new telephone scam that has duped some U.S. military personnel.

The naval station security department in Rota has received six complaints about the scam from Americans living in town, base spokeswoman Lt. Allie Freeman said.

The victims have told investigators that the scam involves someone calling their home saying they have to call another Spanish number and ask for "Antonio" to pick up a package waiting for them. The caller speaks English.

After they call the number, the person is put on hold and charged

as much as 3 euros a minute. The number begins with an 806 prefix, which is similar to calling a U.S. 1-900 number.

"It's pretty ingenious from a scammer's perspective," said Lt. Cmdr. Don King, commanding officer of the base's Legal Assistance Office.

When they call the number, a voice in Spanish tells the caller that they are being charged per minute. Afterward, a person comes on and tries to keep the caller on hold while they "look" for the package.

"Some of these people are staying on the phone for awhile," King said.

The legal office is trying to help several of the victims to get the Spanish telephone company to drop the phone charges racked up by the scam.

Spain's national police and the country's telephone company, Telefonica, have tried to shut down similar scams. Earlier this year, Guardia Civil targeted an Internet scheme that tried to get people to dial 806, 907 and 906 phone numbers. The scam is believed to have affected 45,000 people in Spain and bilked people as much as \$3 million euros, according to law enforcement officials.

In Rota, the Navy is telling people to hang up on the phone scam artists and report them to base security. Victims are encouraged to contact the Legal Assistance Office on base or Telefonica to dispute the charges.

Although the telephone company has procedure for disputing calls, King said none of the scam victims have received their money back yet.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating the six complaints made to the base security department.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.strips.osd.mil

"It's pretty ingenious from a scammer's perspective."

Lt. Cmdr. Don King
Commanding officer
of Rota's Legal Assistance Office



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Things turn up at the end of the "A Game" at the Festival of One Act Plays in Heidelberg, Germany, on Saturday, as Joshua Keleher, Nicole Chavis, Nicholas Kurtz and Louis Gasper from Aviano's Community Theatre battle it out.

Actors duke it out in Heidelberg festival

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany—Nearly 20 acting groups converging on Heidelberg this weekend for a festival of short dramas, comedies and musicals.

The annual Festival of One Act Plays, held at the Patton Barracks Roadside Theater Playhouse, began Thursday.

The event, which wraps up Sunday with workshops and a professional performance, is an opportunity for actors and directors to hone their talents, attend workshops and receive constructive criticism from a panel of judges, according to Jim Sohre, U.S. Army Europe entertainment director and producer of the festival.

The festival was established 10 years ago as a way for directors and beginning actors to polish their work through stage performances, Sohre said.

After each performance, the one-act plays were openly critiqued by three international professional theater judges, who later offer workshops in acting, music and directing.

This year, there's a little more riding on the festival. The best one-act play will compete in the Region 10 entry in the American Association of Community Theater National Festival, Sohre said.

That doesn't mean actors are cut-throat in trying to win their region and move on to the national festival, Sohre said.

"Although awards are given,

this just recognizes different actors for different things. This is not a competition. Everyone participating is jazzed to network with and support each other," Sohre said. "It's a great experience for them to do their own show, as well as see so many different types of shows."

Byron Wilkinson, 56, of Heidelberg, who played an 8-year-old boy in the one-act

play "Suburb," agreed, saying the festival acts as a sounding board for the entire European theater community.

"The main point is that actors get a fair assessment of their performance by professionals and learn where they need improvement," Wilkinson said, who has been acting for less than two years. "This is great, especially for young people. It helps build self-confidence that they will use throughout their life time."

Jim Sohre, U.S. Army Europe entertainment director and producer of the festival

with work beginning in the summer and culminating in early October, participants said it's a labor of love.

"The teamwork here helps bring people more together," said Hanan's Barrie Louise Reese, the director of the one-act play "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," adding that the uphill struggle to become a better actor and director is really "a lot of fun."

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoj@mail.strips.osd.mil

Lending a helping hand during training in Grafenwöhr



MICHAEL HOWARD/U.S. Army

Spc. Joseph Jackson, right, helps Pfc. Benjamin Bergfelt attach his night-vision goggles to their holder during training last week at Grafenwöhr, Germany. Jackson and Bergfelt are members of the 22nd Signal Brigade's 578th Signal Company, 440th Signal Battalion out of Darmstadt.

Former 'NYPD Blue' star Rick Schroder to visit U.S. bases in Germany

Former "NYPD Blue" star Rick Schroder will visit bases in Germany this month to promote his new film, "Black Cloud."

In the film, Schroder—who starred on the popular ABC cop series from 1998-2001—plays a young Navajo boxer who is trying to earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team. The film is rated PG-13.

The schedule for his visits:

- Oct. 22: Vogelweh PX, 5 to 5:45 p.m.; Ramstein BX, 8 to 8:45 p.m.
- Oct. 23: Wiesbaden Army Airfield food court, 12:15 to 1 p.m.; Hainberg Bookmark, Wiesbaden, 7 to 7:30 p.m.; Wiesbaden High School football game, 7:30 to 8 p.m.
- Oct. 24: Hanau PX, 9:45 to 10:15 a.m.

From the Stars and Stripes

The Bird aims high in annual mascot battle

AF Academy only service represented in national contest

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — He's no Dodo.

The Air Force Academy's mascot, "The Bird," instead seeks to be strong, smart and popular as he represents his military brethren as the sole U.S. military service academy representative in the upcoming third annual battle for mascot supremacy and top All-American Mascot, a competition sponsored by Capitol One.

"When it comes to The Bird, I'm gonna be the Nation's Mascot of the Year. There are bragging rights that come with that," said the confident cadet in a recent phone interview from the Academy's campus in Colorado Springs.

Of the 12 competing stuffed and animated fowl, canine or reptile duking it out in the Capitol One challenge, The Bird will be the only one who will parachute in for the weekend football games.

Sure to be a crowd-and voter-pleasing stunt, The Bird said.

Cuz it's almost all about the votes.

Starting Monday, voters can log onto www.capitol-onehow.com to cast their top selections. Voting consists of 11 weekly matchups between the 12 finalists, and the mascot with the best record at competition's end, polls close on Dec. 26, will win the online portion of the contest. Each of the finalists has received a \$5,000 prize for the school's mascot program, and the top winner gets his or her school another \$5,000.

For the first time, the online most popular vote is coupled with

a judges' ranking to determine who gets the ultimate title, according to Capitol One published information. The winning mascot will be announced Jan. 1 during the nationally televised Capitol One Bowl on ABC.

So vote, and vote often, The Bird implored, adding he is at a bit of a disadvantage since the Academy is home to 4,000 students, while some of his competitors hail from schools with stu-

dent bodies numbering 30,000 or more.

And yes, that's his name. Just The Bird. As is with school mascots, the public does not get to learn anything personal about the people who crawl inside the dynamic costumes and charged with revving spectators' enthusiasm.

There are several who perform as The Bird, though officials won't reveal just how many. Suffice it to say, they all learn to

adopt the same mannerisms, the same way of clapping, flapping and snapping the crowd into a frenzy, be it a football or basketball game.

The Bird attends some 90 public functions, mostly in Colorado, from visiting elementary school classrooms to child development centers and parades, and one person couldn't possibly do them all, said Capt. Chris Backus, the Academy's director of spirit programs.

The cheerleading squad, of which The Bird is part, is about a-t-t-t-t-u-d-e, Backus said.

Attitude and creativity.

Last Halloween, for example, 20 cheerleaders performed a routine to pop singer Michael Jackson's "Thriller," with the bird chording as the pop star himself.

For this competition, The Bird said he and other service academy mascots put aside their typically fierce rivalries aside and he's counting on all servicemembers' votes.

"It's all for one and one for all. I want them to know we're all in this together," he said. "In the end, we're all fighting the same fight."

It's the Air Force Academy's second appearance in the 3-year-old competition, having participated in the inaugural showdown.

"He did fairly well for the first time," Backus said of the mascot's performance. "He ended up in the middle of the pack" for a competition that back then, relied solely on popularity votes.

For this go-around, The Bird will compete against the following mascots:

- Aubie from Auburn University
- Big Red from Western Kentucky University



DAVID ARMER/U.S. Air Force Academy

One of The Bird's unique tricks is a parachute entrance into Falcon Stadium for an Air Force Academy football game. Inside the costume is a cadet and team member of the Academy's Wings of Blue marching band. Only one of the cadets who wears The Bird costume is qualified to do this stunt.

- Cocky from the University of South Carolina
- Duke Dog from James Madison University

- Goldy Gopher from the University of Minnesota
- Hairy Dawg from the University of Georgia

- Hey Reb from the University of Nevada/Las Vegas
- Hokie Bird from Virginia Tech

- Monte from the University of Montana
- Scratch from the University of Kentucky

- Testudo from the University of Maryland

They have a tough job. It can

get to be up to 100 degrees in one of those suits, he said. So usually, the night before a game, there's no staying out late. And game day diet consists of bananas, Gatorade, protein, anything to stay well-hydrated and get those electrolytes in your body."

They practice a few hours a day, five days a week, learning skits and routines and various ways to stay light on your feet.

"You don't have to know how to dance well," the Bird chuckled. "But yeah, it helps to know how to dance."

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JOHN VAN WINKLE/U.S. Air Force Academy

The Bird marches to the beat of his own drum, and plays it to, during the Sept. 11 Air Force Academy-Eastern Washington University football game.

Country comes to Landstuhl Medical Center



Marine Cpl. Mikah Davis, right, talks to members of the country band Sawyer Brown as the band's members for Davis. Sawyer Brown was in Germany to play at a concert for the 1st Armored Division welcome home ceremony and toured Landstuhl Regional Medical Center during its visit. Band members, from left, are Joe Smyth, Gregg Hubbard and Mark Miller.

TODD GOODMAN/U.S. Army

'Hire Vets First' program

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Department of Labor recently started a program called "Hire Vets First," in which employees facilitate connecting retiring or separating veterans employers, and beseeching those in the civilian sector to consider awarding those jobs first to the nation's servicemen and women, according to press release information.

The program is one of several managed by the Labor Department. More information about the various types of services and programs available to veterans can be found on the Labor Department's Web site at: <http://www.dol.gov/vets>.

And a Web site hosted by MilitaryStars, www.militarystars.com, is one of many groups and organizations that works to link veterans seeking jobs with employers offering them. It also lists career fairs and the top "military friendly" employers, according to a release.

From staff reports

Navy sub facilities vulnerable to closings

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Naval facilities in Maine and Connecticut could be the most vulnerable in next year's round of military base closings as the Navy considers shrinking its submarine fleet.

According to naval experts and congressional sources, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, and the New London Naval Base in Groton, Conn., are the most likely targets for shutdown if the Navy decides to trim its fleet of submarine yards and home ports.

"The Navy knows it has much more infrastructure for submarines than it probably requires," said Loren Thompson, a military analyst at the Lexington Institute think tank in Washington. "If the Navy doesn't raise its annual purchase of subs, there is likely to be some contraction in the submarine industrial base. And the East Coast facility that is clearly in the greatest danger is Portsmouth."

Portsmouth is limited because it does submarine refueling and overhaul work that could be done at other Navy or commercial shipyards, analysts said.

And the Defense Department decides to pare its submarine fleet to fewer than 40 — one recommendation in a recent study — that will endanger the Groton

Next round of military closures could hit Maine, Conn.

base, Thompson said.

Other analysts, several of whom spoke on condition of anonymity because the base closure issue is so sensitive, agreed that other Navy bases in California, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Virginia and Washington are in much stronger positions to avoid shutdown than the New England facilities.

The Pentagon is scheduled to recommend its fifth round of base closings next May and the military services must send their list of suggested savings to the Secretary of Defense by the end of this year. A base closure commission and the president must approve the recommendations.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said all bases will be considered and officials have said up to 25 percent of the military base capacity could be shed. In the four previous rounds, 387 major and minor bases were closed or realigned in which work and functions of a base are shifted.

Members of Congress and state officials in Connecticut and nationally are lobbying Pentagon officials in an effort to save bases.

"I would be surprised if they put New London on the list," said Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn. "I think we're feeling pretty secure."

sional source with expertise in Navy issues.

Members of Congress representing Maine and New Hampshire also are rallying for the Portsmouth yard. In August members of the two states' delegations toured the shipyard with Navy Secretary Gordon England, who

praised the facility but couldn't guarantee it would remain open.

Lawmakers also expressed concern that the Navy is considering private defense companies for a submarine refueling and overhaul project that

should be done at Portsmouth, they said.

Other shipyards and Navy ports are more secure.

Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in coastal Georgia and Naval Submarine Base Bangor, near Bremerton, Wash., are the East and West Coast headquarters for the Navy's fleet of Trident ballistic missile submarines, and are unlikely to close.

Norfolk is the largest shipyard in the world and also services surface ships. Pearl Harbor occupies a prime Pacific location. San Diego is home to a huge Navy complex, including a submarine base and home port.

And Guam is a strategic Pacific location that is being used more to house attack submarines.

While Portsmouth is considered the most vulnerable of the four major naval shipyards in Maine, Virginia, Washington and Hawaii, where submarine work is done, New London is considered the most vulnerable port.

New London is only a submarine port, while San Diego and Norfolk, for example, also are home to carriers and other ships. What could save New London, said Rep. Rob Simmons, R-Conn., is that it houses the training facility for all submariners. And with submarine-maker Electric Boat nearby, proponents can argue there is a one-of-a-kind combination of submarine expertise in one area.

"There is a synergy that is critical to the submarine industrial base that doesn't exist anywhere else in the country and the world," Simmons said. "I believe the Navy will always need shipyards and we have an obligation to provide the Navy with the best in the world, and those are based in Groton."

"If the Navy doesn't raise its annual purchase of subs, there is likely to be some contraction in the submarine industrial base. And the East Coast facility that is clearly in the greatest danger is Portsmouth."

Loren Thompson

military analyst at Lexington Institute think tank in Washington

Officials will begin to hear rumblings next month about which bases are being targeted, he said.

In 1993, the Pentagon put the Connecticut facility on the base closure list, but Dodd and other state officials fought successfully to reverse the decision.

But this year, defense officials may return to those same decisions. "A past listing is a future vulnerability," said one congress-

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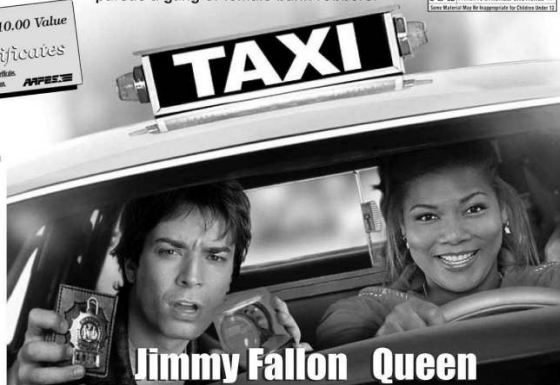
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Giefelsdorf	19-25 Nov
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Ramstein Nightgale	29 Oct-04 Nov
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Schweinfurt	05-11 Nov
Spangdahlem	19-25 Nov
Tuzla	17-23 Dec
Valhingen	05-11 Nov
Viezna	03-09 Dec
Vitsek	22-28 Oct
Vogelweh	22-28 Oct
Wiesbaden	29 Oct-04 Nov
Wuerzburg	22-28 Oct

AFES THEATERS

Crowds, controversy mark first Afghan vote

Karzai's opponents withdraw, accusing nation, U.N. of fraud

BY PAUL HAVEN
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's historic moment turned sour as 15 challengers to interim Afghan President Hamid Karzai withdrew in the middle of voting in the nation's first-ever direct presidential election Saturday, accusing the government and the United Nations of fraud and incompetence that allowed people to cast more than one ballot.

After all the fears of a Taliban attack, it was bad ink — not bombs and bullets — that threatened to undo three years of careful progress toward democracy. The opposition candidates claimed the ink used to mark people's thumbs rubbed off too easily, allowing for mass deception.

Election officials rejected their demand that voting be stopped at midday, saying it would rob millions of their first chance to directly decide their leader, and that the joint U.N.-Afghan panel overseeing the election would rule later on the vote's legitimacy.

But the controversy nonetheless cast a pall over what had been a joyous day in Afghanistan. Millions of ethnicly diverse Afghan voters crammed polling stations for an election aimed at bringing peace and prosperity to a country nearly ruled by more than two decades of war. Men and women voted at separate booths in keeping with this nation's conservative Islamic leanings.

Karzai — who is widely favored to win — told a news conference that the fate of the election was in the hands of the electoral panel, but added that in his view "the election was free and fair ... it is very legitimate."

"Who is more important, these 15 candidates, or the millions of people who turned out today to vote?" Karzai said. "Both myself and all these 15 candidates should respect our people — because in the dust and snow and rain, they waited for hours and hours to vote."

Taliban rebels got into a skirmish with U.S. troops that left at least 25 insurgents dead, and managed to kill three Afghan policemen accompanying ballots back to a counting center after the vote. Eight more police and two civilians died when their vehicles ran over mines. But the rebels didn't muster anything approaching the massive attack they had threatened to derail the election.

The boycott was a blow to the international community, which spent just under \$200 million staging the vote. At least 12 election workers, and dozens of Afghan security forces, died in the past few months as the nation geared up for the vote.

In Kabul, where the opposition candidates met at the house of Uzbek candidate Abdul Satar Sirat and signed a petition saying they would not recognize the results.

Sirat, an ex-aid to Afghanistan's last king and a minor candidate expected to poll in the low single-digits, said all 15 candidates opposing Karzai agreed to the boycott.

"Today's election is not a legitimate election. It should be stopped and we don't recognize the results," Sirat said. "This vote is a fraud and any government formed from it is illegitimate."

Abdul Latif Padran, an Islamic poet who is another minor candidate, added: "Today was a very black day. Today was the occupation of Afghanistan by America through elections."

Election officials acknowledged that workers at some voting stations mistakenly swapped the permanent ink meant to mark thumbs with normal ink meant for ballots, but insisted the problem was caught quickly.

"Halting the vote at this stage is unjustified and would deny these people their right to vote," said Ray Kennedy, vice chairman of the joint U.N.-Afghan electoral panel, of the opposition demands. "There have been some technical problems but overall it has been safe and orderly."

Kennedy said it could take time for the electoral body to reach a decision on the vote's legitimacy.

A 13-member U.S. observer team from the bipartisan International Republican Institute described the polls as "a triumph for the Afghan people."

"It is not surprising that some of the candidates are raising the question (about the ink)," said Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aaronson, the team's co-leader.

"Perhaps some of those who don't do so well are trying to provide an excuse for why they didn't do so well."

The European Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe sent observer missions as well.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad arrived at the opposition camp to meet with Sirat, making no comment other than to say he was there "only to help."

Even before the problems, initial results from the election were not expected until late Sunday or early Monday. Anything approaching a full count could take as much as two weeks.

Associated Press writers Stephen Graham in Kandahar, Bart Herman in Mazari Sharif and Amir Shah and Daniel Cooney in Kabul contributed to this report.



AP photos

Afghan refugees living in Peshawar, Pakistan, queue up to vote for Afghanistan's first-ever presidential elections on Saturday.

Bush: U.S. paved way for Afghan elections

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — President Bush exulted in Saturday's voting in Afghanistan as a "marvelous thing" and said at least partial credit was due to his administration.

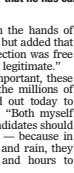
"A marvelous thing is happening in Afghanistan," Bush told a breakfast fund-raiser for local Republican candidates. "Freedom is powerful. Think about a society in which young girls couldn't go to school, and their mothers were whipped in the public square, and today they're holding a presidential election."

In his remarks, Bush mentioned nothing of political chaos that marred the elections.

Bush noted that the first person to vote was a 19-year-old woman, Moqaddas Siddiqi, in Islamabad, Pakistan, who had fled her country during Afghanistan's 1990s civil war and expressed joyous disbelief that she was casting a vote.

He said her vote would have been impossible without the U.S.-led invasion in late 2001 that ousted the Taliban regime that "ruled that country with such barbarism." After the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, Bush ordered the invasion to unseat the Taliban militia's radical Islamic government and eliminate the al-Qaida terror bases it harbored.

An Afghan election official marks a finger of a voter in Herat, Afghanistan, to show that he has cast his ballot.



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we are there

Mortar fire can't stop voting in remote outpost

BY TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

FIREBASE ASADABAD, Afghanistan — Expectations in this insurgent stronghold was for a day with a lot of shooting and a little voting.

Instead, the historic presidential elections in this isolated section of eastern Afghanistan went off with only isolated attacks and no deaths, casualties or property damage.

Election day in the mountains just 9 miles from Pakistan's tribal areas did start with a 4:20 a.m. one-shot mortar attack that landed within 500 meters of Firebase Asadabad. The near-miss turned out to be a harbinger of things to come.

At about 11 a.m., insurgents fired four rockets into the nearby town of Asadabad, one of which was a 107 mm rocket that landed in the garden of the governor's residence but failed to explode, said Capt. Jim Wilt, a Maryland reservist with the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion.

The local police chief was in the building at the time, "but the attack had no effect at all on him," Wilt said, shaking his head in disbelief. "He was yawning."

Both U.S. and Afghan troops were in the courtyard at the time of attack, some only 30 feet from where the dud rocket landed, he said.

Northwest of Asadabad, there were other attacks on U.S. troops, but nothing sustained. There were about 11 or 12 at-



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

American troops kept a low profile during Saturday's election, relegated to augmenting Afghan police and army forces on the streets to discourage terrorist attacks. An Afghan federal policeman was a friendly face at Asadabad's main polling station.

tacks around Kunar Province, which is the size of a small Texas county, but none seemed to have dissuaded voters.

In Asadabad, with U.S. soldiers keeping a low profile, Afghan officials said the first person to vote was a young woman who'd been a refugee in Pakistan during the Taliban regime. Whether her vote was stage-managed, they wouldn't say. But the enthusiasm for voting in Afghanistan's first election seemed real enough.

The vote tally was 1,483 at just one Asadabad voting site, poll workers said. One American offi-

cial, who asked not to be identified, said he believed a significant percent of eligible voters took part.

Rainy, cold weather may have lowered turnout, with some villagers in this mountainous area having to walk as long as three hours round trip to vote, the U.S. official said.

Less of a factor were insurgents. Those who did launch attacks did so with little efficacy, "and were probably Jihadis' for hire — guys who were collecting a paycheck to fire their weapons," he said.

With all of Afghanistan's 15 or

NATO general sees more violence ahead

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Attacks aimed at disrupting Afghanistan's government will likely increase after this weekend's presidential vote as the country heads toward parliamentary elections planned next spring, NATO's senior military official was quoted Saturday as saying.

German Gen. Harald Kujat noted that followers of the former Taliban regime and remnants of al-Qaida are still active in Afghanistan.

"We have to be prepared for a further increase in violence until the parliamentary elections in the spring," the head of NATO's military committee said in an interview for the Bild am Sonntag newspaper.

Kujat renewed calls on NATO member countries to offer more troops to provide security in Afghanistan. "I cannot be satisfied with the readiness of NATO countries to make contributions to the Afghanistan mission," he said.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force was recently beefed up to 9,000 troops, mainly to boost security in the capital, Kabul, for the presidential vote.

NATO has also sent soldiers into the provinces to protect reconstruction efforts, but the process has been slow.

Once democracy takes root in Afghanistan after the parliamentary election, "it should be possible to begin with the withdrawal of our troops in another five years," Kujat said.

16 tribes endorsing the election, insurgents who launched assaults risked starting blood feuds, the official said.

"The Kunar governor told local mullahs and powerbrokers, 'this is your elections. Your tribe's honor is at stake,'" said Lt. Col. Mark McLaughlin, commander of the Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team, one of 17 U.S. military and civilian rebuilding teams working across Afghanistan.

Several U.S. officials in Asadabad told Stars and Stripes they believed the elections were premature, and hampered by rival-

ries between the U.S. military and U.N. workers.

The elections were neither early nor late, said McLaughlin, who is on his second Afghanistan rotation. "They were right where they needed to be."

The defeat of the Taliban after Sept. 11 attacks left a vacuum, and there wouldn't have been adequate security had the United States and the United Nations tried to hold elections before a national police force and army was in place, McLaughlin said.

Overall, Saturday's voting was a nonevent for the Fort Bragg-based 82nd Airborne Division unit sent specifically to provide extra election security.

"Uneventful," said Spc. Carl Pape, Company D, infantryman with 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

"Voting is one thing. Now they've got to count the votes," said 1st Lt. Carl Benander, a Company D platoon leader. "I'm worried about the next couple of days."

"We'll see."

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydt@mail.eastripes.osd.mil

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Al-Sadr militia agrees to give up weapons

Coalition would like to shift forces to fight Sunni insurgency

BY RAWYA RAGEH
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Shiite militiamen loyal to Muqtada al-Sadr agreed Saturday to begin handing in weapons, a significant step toward restoring order in Baghdad's teeming Sadr City district as the government struggles to curb Iraq's more widespread Sunni insurgency.

In a sign of persistent Sunni unrest, clashes broke out west of the capital Saturday as the search continued for the body of British liaison Kenneth Bigley, decapitated by his abductors — reportedly after a failed escape attempt.

Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's interim government is trying to rein in insurgent enclaves before legislative elections in January.

U.S. and Iraqi officials have been negotiating for weeks with tribal and religious leaders in key rebel strongholds. But if talks fail, they say they are prepared to use force.

A senior aide to al-Sadr said the Mahdi Army militia will begin turning in medium and heavy weapons at three police stations Monday in an operation that is expected to last five days.

As a confidence-building measure, the government will suspend raids against al-Sadr's followers in the capital's sprawling northeastern Sadr City slum, which has seen weeks of clashes with U.S. and Iraqi forces, according to the aide, Ali Smeisen.

Al-Sadr's movement is still pressing for guarantees that the government will stop pursuing its members, release the cleric's detained followers and compensate residents for losses suffered during the fighting. But Smeisen said it is willing to wait for a deal on those points.

So far, al-Sadr has not pledged to disband his militia, a key U.S. and Iraqi government demand. But American and Iraqi authorities are eager to end the clashes in the Shiite stronghold so they can concentrate on suppressing the more potent Sunni insurgency.

On that front, government and tribal negotiators have reported progress in talks aimed at restoring Iraqi state control over insurgent bastion Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad. The city, believed to be a stronghold of Iraq's most feared terror group, Tawhid and Jihad, has been subject to weeks of U.S. airstrikes.

Clashes broke out Saturday in Ramadi, another center of Sunni resistance west of Fallujah. U.S. forces traded gunfire with insurgents in at least three neighborhoods of the city 70 miles west of Baghdad, residents said.

At least one Iraqi was killed and five wounded, the city hospital said. The U.S. military had no immediate information on the fighting.

About six miles east of Ramadi, a car bomb exploded as an American convoy was traveling on the road toward Baghdad, police said. One Humvee was damaged, but there were no reports of casualties, said U.S. 1st Lt. Ahmed al-Dulaimi.

Insurgents also fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a U.S. patrol near Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, disabling a Humvee in an area that had become comparatively peaceful in recent months, the military said. There were no casualties.

Insurgents also fired several mortar rounds at U.S. forces near Yousifiyah, 12 miles south of Baghdad, said Capt. David Newers, a Marine spokesman. U.S. forces returned fire with mortar and artillery shells, he said.

South of Baghdad, about 20 masked insurgents pulled up in front of the local municipal council in four cars, asked employees to leave and then blew up the building. No casualties were reported in the incident in Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of the capital.

U.S. and Iraqi forces launched an operation south of Baghdad last week to clear out pockets of insurgents in an area notorious for ambushes and kidnappings.

At least 36 people have been killed so far in the towns of Jurf al-Sakhar, Latifiya and Haswa, said police Capt. Hadi Hatif. The

operation also netted 72 suspected insurgents, including Iranians, Syrians and Jordanians, he said. Some of those arrested were found with explosives, maps, and lists of Iraqi officials, scientist and doctors.

Seven Iraqi National Guard members were wounded, he said. Meanwhile, authorities searched for Bigley, whose grisly beheading was recorded on footage delivered Friday to Abu Dhabi TV.

A U.S. official in Washington said there were credible reports that Bigley had tried to escape with the help of one of his captors before he was killed. There was no word on the fate of his accomplice.

A masked gunman claiming to be familiar with Bigley's kidnappers said that the hostage managed to elude his 10 guards on Thursday. He was located the next morning in a deserted area, carrying a gun, the man said. It was not immediately clear how Bigley would have obtained the weapon.

Bigley was killed soon after, the gunman said. He provided no further details. Officials in Baghdad refused to comment on the report.

Tawhid and Jihā claimed responsibility.



Iraqi police officers examine confiscated weapons after a raid Saturday in Qurnah, west of Basra, Iraq. Shiite militiamen agreed to start handing in weapons, a significant step toward restoring order in the country.

AP



U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,064 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 809 died as a result of hostile action and 255 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had

ended, 926 U.S. military members have died — 700 as a result of hostile action and 226 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One U.S. soldier was killed Friday in an attack near Tuz, Iraq.

■ One U.S. soldier died Friday of wounds suffered in a roadside bombing in Baghdad, Iraq on Oct. 1.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Jessica L. Carvey, 21, Normal, Ill.; died Wednesday in Fallujah, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near her convoy vehicle; assigned to the Army National Guard 154th Transportation Company, Paris, Ill.

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Car bombs prove new challenge for troops

When to shoot drivers weighs heavily when result may mean deadly blast

By WARD SANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — Car bombs are increasingly becoming the nerve-firing new threat in Iraq. They are more indiscriminate than the old roadside bombs, soldiers say.

They're also bigger and deadlier. Roadside bombs usually target a specific vehicle as it drives over the trap. Not so with car bombs, which can be remotely detonated or driven into crowds.

According to U.S. figures, nearly 30 international or Iraqi troops died in car bomb attacks last month. October began on the same dissonant note. On Monday, car bombs near the fortified International Zone, the former Green Zone, and in the heart of Baghdad killed about 20 people and injured maybe 100 more.

The threat of cars as weapons of urban destruction is a migraine for soldiers. Troops are the targets. They are also the ones who decide whether to open fire on a speeding driver and the ones first on the scene after an attack.

Soldiers from the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, were about two miles away from Mon-



A foreign national is evacuated soon after the bomb exploded. The aftermath of car bombs is an increasing presence in Iraq: twisted metal, bloodied and injured people and dead bodies. Faced with this threat, U.S. troops are now beset by the difficult and critical decision of when to fire at a suspicious vehicle.

day's second blast. They still heard it. They're almost used to it now.

That's why Staff Sgt. Robert

Sotir reacted to the carnage with an exhale. This time at least his guys weren't there when it happened.

"It's sad to say," Sotir said, face shining with sweat, "but it's a relief."

Sotir wasn't there when the sil-

ver Opel sped into the crowd, so he didn't have to think about whether to shoot it. But he and other soldiers carry the weight of past decisions in their guts like swallowed buckshot.

"You're a little desensitized," Sotir said, but "you have bad dreams. I kinda wonder whether I'll still have bad dreams when I go home."

In August, Sotir shot a father and son because he believed he had to do it. A car drove through the soldiers' perimeter. There was a warning shot. The car kept coming. Sotir opened fire. He hit the father in the shoulder and the 12-year-old boy in the head.

"I was messed up for a while," Sotir said, "but once I found out they were all right ..."

The father survived and so did the boy. The bullet traveled around the curve of the boy's skull and lodged in the back of his neck. Sotir has a 12-year-old son himself.

They had no bombs. But Sotir, not knowing, did as he was trained to do.

"Sometimes being right still hurts," Sotir said.

Monday's attack showed what could have happened.

SEE BOMBS ON PAGE 10

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Rumsfeld visits Gulf for meeting with allies on Iraq

Secretary says U.S. commanders may ask for more troops before vote

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS JOHN F. KENNEDY — In a cramped war room below deck, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Saturday joined 18 of his counterparts from an unusual collection of U.S. partners in the terrorism fight in discussing the way ahead in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On a hot and hazy day in the central Persian Gulf, Rumsfeld thanked the defense chiefs for their support. They also held a live, two-way video teleconference from the aircraft carrier with Army

Rumsfeld

Gen. George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq. Casey described the U.S. goal of bringing all of Iraq under friendly control. The unannounced session was held amid mounting concern in some quarters that the insurgency in Iraq is so widespread and violent that full and fair elections in January might not be able to go on as scheduled.

Some progress toward ending the violence in Baghdad's Sadr City was reported on Saturday. Also, negotiations with tribal leaders in the restive city of Fallujah were under way.

Rumsfeld began the meeting by noting the milestone elections in Afghanistan and stressing that it was achieved despite the kind of doubt that some now express for Iraq's prospects.

"Throughout this entire process," he said, referring to the drive toward democracy in Afghanistan, "there have been people who said this could not happen. There are always naysayers

and doomayers and people who are faint of heart. But the people who have been determined and steadfast have been proved correct."

The rest of the session was closed to reporters. Rumsfeld's spokesman, Lawrence D. Rita, said afterward that Casey explained in general terms the U.S.-Iraq plan to use a combination of negotiations and military force to break the insurgents' grip on Fallujah and other important cities before the elections.

"He laid out the idea that he and the Iraqis have worked on this together," Di Rita said. Iraq's defense minister, Hazem Shaalan, expressed optimism about his country's future. Di Rita said, and was "clearly proud of what they're doing."

It was one of the most usual groups of defense chiefs ever to assemble on an American aircraft carrier.

They came from Gulf nations such as Qatar and Bahrain, NATO allies including Hungary, Poland and Romania; aspiring alliance members such as Albania and Azerbaijan; former Soviet republics such as Estonia and Lithuania; and new U.S. partners in the terrorism fight, including Macedonia and Georgia.

In an interview en route from Washington, Rumsfeld told reporters that it was still possible that U.S. commanders in Iraq may decide they need more U.S. troops before the election in January.

"To the extent that's appropriate or needed, obviously that makes sense," Rumsfeld said. He stressed that he preferred that any troop additions come from other countries.

The United States now has about 135,000 troops in Iraq.

As Iraq's election draws near, the fear is that insurgents, hoping to disrupt progress toward democracy and create more chaos, will attack polling places.

Lawsuit alleges security company bilked U.S.

WASHINGTON — A company hired to provide security for U.S. officials and installations in Iraq fleeced the government out of millions of dollars by submitting phony or inflated bills, a lawsuit by two former employees says.

The federal lawsuit unsealed Friday says Custer Battles LLC billed the former Coalition Provisional Authority for equipment and services that didn't exist and inflated other charges. The improper charges, the lawsuit says, included billing for fake leases on up to eight forklifts swiped from Iraqi Airways.

The Air Force sued Custer Battles on Sept. 30 from obtaining new contracts on the ground that it has reason to believe the company broke federal contracting rules.

Lawyers for the two men suing Custer Battles say the firm's fraudulent charges amounted to \$50 million.

The former employees, Robert Isakson and William Baldwin, sued under a federal law that allows citizens to sue on behalf of the government when they suspect fraud in federal contracting.

From The Associated Press



Sgt. 1st Class James Terrel talks to Staff Sgt. Robert Sotir about recent radio traffic. Members of the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, they have responded to, or found themselves in the middle of, repeat insurgent bomb strikes around Baghdad. The problem of car bombs in particular is getting worse, they say.

WARD SANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

Bombs: Iraqi roads have many hazards

BOMBS, FROM PAGE 9

A blackened van owned by a Western security firm was hit directly by the blast. Five people were inside, according to the soldiers. Three survived, though the street was littered with remains afterward. No Americans were reported among the dead.

A car had sped toward the van, the soldiers said, and apparently had stopped. Someone from the car fired a weapon and shouted, "This is day you're going to die."

Then came the fireball, and everything went to hell. Spc. Martin Miller pulled out a video camera to show the aftermath, scorched concrete jerking on the LCD screen. Half the blown-up Opel had embedded itself into the second story of a building.

"That was something else," Miller said. "It actually still had the side mirror attached to it."

A spokesman for multinational forces in Iraq, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Eric Grill, said it's difficult to predict when to expect trouble. You have to expect it every day and hope you're wrong.

"Every day is different," Grill said. "There will be days when nothing happens. There will be days when several things happen. Every day, every moment, has the possibility of something happening. And we are living in a war zone."

Sgt. 1st Class James Terrel would agree. He was in charge Monday. All of it reminded him of the luckiest, saddest day of his life.

It was Sept. 12, the day a car passed his convoy,

jumped lanes, then detonated in front of a parked security team of soldiers and Iraqis on the other side.

The blast left a hole 6 feet deep and 12 feet wide. It picked up a Humvee and tossed it 10 feet into the air and 10 feet to the left, then split it in half. Two other car bombs had been set to go off simultaneously. One failed to blow, but the other did.

Terrel and his convoy survived, but at a cost. Terrel's gunner wanted to shoot the quick-moving car. Terrel chose not to OK this. The car was moving fast and light, not slow and low-riding like most lugging explosives.

"It might be a drunk," Terrel said. "You just can't shoot every car."

Bodies littered the highway. Terrel's troops cared for some of the victims: three Iraqi National Guard members, two U.S. soldiers and a local woman and her baby. One of the guards died, Terrel believes. The baby's scalp was peeled away.

If the car bomber had detonated near Terrel's convoy, the blast would have set off a 5,000-gallon fuel truck. Things would have been even worse. Terrel said he's thankful that didn't happen.

Opening fire on the car may have also set it off, blowing the tanker. Or maybe it would have stopped the white attack, and everyone would be fine today.

Maybe, maybe, maybe. What if, what if, what if. Terrel has just had to accept it.

"It was my lucky day," he said. "It was their unlucky day."

E-mail Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.strips.osp.af.mil

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At burial, GI, mom hailed as 'heroes'

Ceremony honors son killed in Iraq, grieving mother who died afterwards

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN
The Associated Press

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. — An Army soldier killed in Iraq and his grief-stricken mother, who died a week later, were buried alongside one another, hailed as "both heroes in their own right, and casualties of war."

"We're here today to pay our respects and to honor the passing of two great American heroes," said Chaplain

"We're here today to pay our respects and to honor the passing of two great American heroes."

Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas McFarland

ion, had been stationed in Iraq less than a month when he was shot as his unit came under small arms fire in Al Anbar Province.

Karen Unruh-Wahner, 45, a respiratory therapist in Tucson, collapsed at her home Oct. 2, hours after viewing her son's body, and died later that night.

An honor guard presented Unruh's sister, Amie, with a folded American flag and the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal awarded posthumously to her brother. A 21-gun salute followed.

McFarland said Unruh, the fourth generation of his family to serve in the military, did so "faithfully and he served well. He was a good soldier." His mother, the chaplain added, provided "the unconditional love of a mother to support her child at a time like that, knowing that he was willingly stepping into harm's way. Duty called; she was there."

Urns holding their cremated remains were placed in vault at a veterans military cemetery.

Results of an autopsy conducted on Unruh-Wahner have not been released, but a friend said earlier in the week that she had been unable to quit crying after her son's death.

About those who attended the service was Gary "Rex" Finley, who said he had been a member of the same unit while serving in Korea. Military deaths are al-

ways difficult, Finley said, and Unruh's mother "died of a broken heart."



Army Brig. Gen. Joseph Schroedel, left, presents Army Spc. Robert Unruh's medals to his sister Amie Unruh, right, while his father Dennis Wahner, center, is overcome with grief during the service honoring Unruh and his mother Karen Unruh-Wahner Friday at the Southern Arizona Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista.

AP



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IN THE STATES

Presidential contenders swing hard in 2nd debate

BY MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — President Bush and John Kerry sprinted back to the campaign trail, trying to build on their performances in an argumentative second debate that saw the presidential candidates colliding over war, jobs, education, health care, abortion, the environment and prescription drugs.

The 90 minutes included more testy exchanges on Iraq that reflected back on the first face-to-face meeting between the candidates. Bush said that if Kerry were president, Saddam Hussein "would still be in power." The senator replied: "Not necessarily he is in power..."

The candidates also went on the offensive over job growth and the economy. Bush said tax increases would be inevitable if the Democrat took power, as Kerry promised not to raise taxes on those making \$200,000 or less.

Both candidates sped out of Friday night's debate and into some of the most narrowly divided states to build momentum in the little time for campaigning before the third debate, on domestic issues.

The debate's questions were delivered by selected voters, just 25 days before the election, on subjects that spanned diplomacy, eco-

nomics and ethics.

Kerry condemned Bush as the first president to see more jobs lost than created in 72 years, criticizing his successive tax cuts as a giveaway to the rich at the expense of massive budget deficits.

Kerry also responded without hesitation that he would pledge not to raise taxes on people making less than \$200,000. "Absolutely yes, right into the camera. Yes — I am not going to raise taxes,"

Bush scoffed at the answer. "Of course he's going to raise your taxes." The president said Kerry would raise taxes on middle-class Americans to pay for campaign promises that he tagged at \$2.2 trillion, while labeling his opponent one of the country's most liberal senators.

The president dampened the scowling expressions of the first debate, but several questions brought his emotions bubbling up as he moved aggressively to counter the Massachusetts Democrat. He overtook one of moderator Charles Gibson's questions as he attacked Kerry's statement that the U.S. went alone into war in Iraq.

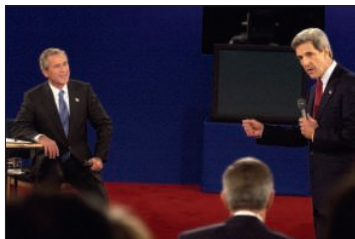
"I've got to answer this," Bush said as he cut off the moderator. "There are 30 countries there. It denigrates an alliance to say we're going alone, to discount their sacri-

fices."

Kerry showed a cooler and wordier bearing to the participants and television viewers, but he was no less argumentative than the more heated president.

An instant ABC News poll suggested that the voters who tuned in for the Friday night debate picked Kerry the winner by a narrower margin than the first debate. This time, the quick poll showed 44 percent of voters saying Kerry won, 41 percent favoring Bush and 13 percent declaring a tie. The two men fared about equally in a poll of debate viewers by CNN-USA Today-Gallup. Asked who did a better job, 47 percent said Kerry and 45 percent said Bush.

In some cases, the candidates used the forum to patch their



President Bush, left, listens as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry answers a question during the debate Friday at Washington University in St. Louis.

weak spots.

The first question invited Kerry to bat down a reputation for being "wishy-washy." He turned it into an attack on Bush, saying the president "didn't find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, so he's really turned his campaign into a weapon of mass deception" by claiming that the four-term Massachusetts senator had changed his mind

when he had not.

Bush also set to lay to rest persistent rumors that the war in Iraq would require the nation to retreat to a military draft.

"We're not going to have a draft. Period," the president said.

The third and final debate will be held Wednesday in Tempe, Ariz., with the focus on domestic issues.

Candidates play free and loose with facts

BY CALVIN WOODWARD

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was a night of double-jeopardy on the factual front.

In their second debate, President Bush claimed a boost in the child tax credit twice as high as he achieved. Democratic challenger John Kerry cited job losses twice as bad as the reality and Bush said twice as many small businesses face higher taxes under Kerry than analysts believe.

Other claims Friday night went too far, too, a mix of the familiar and the new. Kerry said, "I have a plan to provide health care to all Americans," when his plan by all

accounts falls millions of people short of that goal.

And a day after acknowledging in the clearest terms yet that Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction when the United States invaded Iraq, Bush declared: "Saddam Hussein was a threat because he could have given weapons of mass destruction to terrorist enemies."

One of the night's most bewildering exchanges resulted from Bush's claim that Kerry's plan to raise income taxes on the richest Americans would increase the tax burden on 900,000 small businesses whose owners claim the profits on their personal returns.

SEE FACTS ON PAGE 15

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Bush, Kerry get mixed debate reviews

BY RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush smirked and winked and chuckled to himself. He jumped from his stool, chuckled at the air and interrupted the debate moderator. As he fought to keep his emotions in check during a combative debate with Sen. John Kerry, the president jokingly said, "That answer almost made me want to scowl."

Several answers brought Bush's emotions to the surface, for better or worse, as he sought to curb Kerry's momentum.

The question that hung over the second of their three debates was whether Bush's aggressive, hyper style was an effective tool or a damaging habit — an extension of his disastrous first debate performance. Reviews were mixed.

Bush "seemed wound a bit too tight. He was a little like Nixon — sort of jumping out of his suit," said David Niven, political science professor at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

"Kerry was way too wordy and Bush was folksy, feisty," said Charles Franklin, political science professor at the University of Wisconsin. "Bush looked comfortable, and produced a plausible story line."

As for voters, especially those in the shrinking mushy middle yet to make up their minds, both Bush and Kerry presented an angry, negative face to national politics.

Several said they were disappointed by both men.

"They're very argumentative. I'm actually disgusted," said Jennifer Schmitz, 38, a mother of three in Klamath Falls, Ore. "The same old back-and-forth meanness."

Analysis

In their 90-minute face-off, Kerry was cooler and windier, but no less confrontational. He shook his head with a tight-lipped smile as Bush attacked. The Republican campaign said Kerry looked haughty, and Bush aides counted the Democrat's negative facial expressions.

"He gave you a speech" on Iraq "and told you he'd plan carefully," Kerry told the crowd of uncommitted voters standing in for millions of Americans watching the debate. "He didn't. He broke his word."

At times, Kerry swiveled to address Bush directly, forcing camera angles that caught the president's facial reactions. Bush seemed to be aware that his reactions were being watched; as Kerry spoke, he scribbled notes or looked at the Democrat.

When Bush said Saddam Hussein would still be in power if Kerry was president, the Democrat said, "Not necessarily." He offered no explanation for an unclear answer, the latest twist in an uneven history on Iraq.

Both candidates sought to address their political vulnerabilities.

Kerry summed up Bush's re-election campaign strategy nicely — "He wants you to believe that I can't be president." Then he accused Bush of waffling on crime and education policies among others before turning the topic back to Iraq. "Let me tell you this, I have never changed my mind about Iraq," Kerry said.

As for Bush, voters said last week they were turned off by his repetition of a few talking

points during his turns at the microphone and his peevish facial expressions during Kerry's remarks. He did so poorly — about a third of voters formed a less favorable view of him during the debate, according to an AP-Ipsos poll — that he had nowhere to go but up.

Bush cut down on the antics Friday night, but didn't eliminate them.

Early in the debate, Kerry quoted Republican senators expressing concern about Iraq. Television cameras caught Bush laughing to himself, then smirking, and finally giving a quick wink to somebody in the crowd.

He and Kerry repeatedly jumped from their stools to respond, wandering the red-carpeted stage to make their points. Bush was the most aggressive, at one point overrunning moderator Charles Gibson's attempt to pose a question after Kerry said he was "not going to go alone like this president did" in Iraq.

"I've got to answer this," Bush said, cutting off Gibson, then indignantly responded to Kerry, "You tell Tony Blair we're going alone."

Often, Bush's voice rose to nearly a shout. Was it too much? That's in the eye of the beholder.

"Bush looks the most determined. He's up and down, but he's not angry. He focused on how he responds," said Chris Montgomery, 48, an uncommitted voter in New Orleans who leaned toward Bush before the debate.

He said Kerry kept talking about his plan for Iraq, "but where was it?"

Craig Swatland, 40, an uncommitted voter listening to the debate on the radio in Bozeman, Mont., said Bush was "pretty heated up, but he's just being aggressive."

"I would just like one of these guys to answer a question," he said. "I'm tired of listening to the rhetoric and the carping."

Facts: Distorted

FACTS, FROM PAGE 14

An analysis by the Annenberg Public Policy Center's FactCheck.org and other independent groups found that the Bush campaign is counting all rich people who have even \$1 of outside business income as a small business owner, even if they have no employees.

The Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center projected that nearly 1 million people would fall into this category, but only half get most of their income from the business and only 471,000 have employees.

For his part, Kerry charged, "The president has presided over an economy where we've lost 1.6 million jobs."

Kerry meant — but did not say — that those were private-sector job losses. Overall, the economy has lost 821,000 jobs in Bush's time, according to the last employment report. Also in the debate:

■ Bush said of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization, "We've already [got] 75 percent of his people," a loose interpretation of intelligence findings that up to three quarters of the group's top figures from before Sept. 11, 2001 — not the rank and file, or new leadership — have been run down.

■ Kerry said he voted against \$87 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan operations because, in part, "I didn't want to give a slush fund to Halliburton." But congressional auditors concluded that legal guidelines were followed in awarding Iraq business to Halliburton.



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Congress nears OK of hurricane aid, tax cuts

Lawmakers eager to send funds to vote-rich Florida, other states before Election Day

BY ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ending weeks of stalemate, Congress is preparing to ship nearly \$15 billion to states battered by hurricanes and drought as lawmakers plow through a final pile of pre-election bills that would cut taxes and revamp the intelligence community.

The House was expected to approve the hurricane and drought aid Saturday. The Senate planned to send the money — probably attached to a \$10 billion military construction measure — to President Bush in the next few days.

"We have a pretty good package," said House Appropriations

Committee Chairman Bill Young, R-Fla.

The measure underscored the heightened political sensitivities in the run-up to Election Day on Nov. 2. Both parties were eager to quickly send aid to vote-rich Florida, where the hurricanes focused. And though Bush never proposed drought aid, members of both parties were loath to deny it to such pivotal states as Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The House planned to leave town after Saturday's session for the waning weeks of the campaigns, and the Senate hoped to follow shortly. Both chambers might return briefly for additional work later this month.

The hurricane money neared approval at the same time as:

■ The House by 282-134 approved legislation creating a new national intelligence director and a national counterterrorism center, as recommended by the Sept. 11 commission. The chamber added anti-terrorism, deportation, border security and identity theft powers to the bill that the Senate had rejected. GOP leaders want to send Bush a compromise measure before the election.

■ Both bodies prepared to approve a bill that maps \$447 billion in defense programs for 2005. It would block the Air Force from leasing midair refueling tankers from the Boeing Co. but would let it buy 100 Boeing 767 planes for

use as tankers. It would also allow another round of military base closings and overhaul the way sickened nuclear weapons industry workers are paid compensation; and let South Carolina and Idaho store radioactive waste from Cold War bomb projects.

■ The Senate got ready to give final congressional approval to a bill cutting corporate taxes by \$136 billion. The tax cuts replace a federal tax break for U.S. exporters that the World Trade Organization had ruled illegal. It also keeps a \$10.1 billion buyout for tobacco farmers' Depression-era quotas, but omits Senate-passed language allowing the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco.

■ The House by 210-182 turned down a Democratic demand for a special counsel to investigate the conduct of House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas. The House ethics committee admonished DeLay twice within six days for among other things creating the appearance of linking political donations to a legislative favor.

The hurricane package included \$11.8 billion for Florida and other eastern states ravaged by four hurricanes in a six-week barrage. It also had another \$2.9 billion for farmers and ranchers hurt by drought and floods.

The government will have to borrow the hurricane funds, making huge federal deficits even larger.

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Man arrested on weapons charges

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Federal authorities arrested an Iraqi-born man on illegal weapons charges during a sting operation prompted by the man's alleged threat about jihad.

Ahmed Hassan Al-Uqaily, 33, allegedly paid \$1,000 for two disassembled machine guns, four disassembled hand grenades and

Iraqi native held for buying illegal guns

hundreds of rounds of ammunition supplied by an undercover agent working with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, authorities said Friday.

He was arrested Thursday as he placed the weapons in his car, according to an FBI affidavit.

The investigation began in Au-

gust after an acquaintance of Al-Uqaily told federal authorities Al-Uqaily wanted to buy weapons.

The affidavit said Al-Uqaily told the informant he was angry about the state of affairs in Iraq, was "going jihad" and planned to blow up something.

During conversations with the informant, Al-Uqaily "expressed animosity towards the Jewish community" and discussed "two Jewish facilities in the Nashville area," but made no specific threats, according to a release from the Justice Department. Authorities declined to say which facilities were mentioned.

According to Nashville police, Al-Uqaily was arrested for assault in 1997.

Federal base opens in N.Y. to secure border

BY MICHAEL HILL

The Associated Press

PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. — The federal government opened a base Friday where airplanes, helicopters and high-speed boats will set out to intercept terrorists, drug smugglers and illegal immigrants trying to cross the nation's vast northeastern border.

The base in New York's northeastern corner is one of five that will be responsible for tightening surveillance along the U.S.-Canadian border and will cover a heavily wooded stretch from western New York to Maine.

Department of Homeland Security helicopter pilot Dennis Del Grosso said agents are looking for anything from low-flying planes trying to skirt radar to drug runners riding snowmobiles.

"Vehicles, boats and airplanes that carry drugs or illegal immigrants can just as easily carry terrorists or weapons of mass destruction," said Charles Stallworth, director of operations at the base.

Two planes and two helicopters will be based at the new facility, along with some 40 people. Boats will regularly patrol Lake Champlain and other waterways, Homeland Security officials said. Planes also will patrol Lake Ontario and western Lake Erie.

On a demonstration helicopter run Friday, pilots ran a quick, low loop to a stretch of border barely discernible amid an endless expanse of woods. But flying at 580 feet, riders could see in an individual people golfing or mowing lawns, as well as cars rolling down the highway.

The first such facility opened in August in Bellingham, Wash.

Others are tentatively planned for near Detroit; Grand Forks, N.D.; and Great Falls, Mont.

Stallworth said the five bases, when up and running, will let agents respond within an hour anywhere along the border's more than 4,000 miles.

The northern bases are part of a larger effort by Homeland Security



Jason Pitts, an aviation enforcement officer with the Department of Homeland Security, right, leads a group of media away from a Miami-based DHS Black Hawk helicopter Friday at the former Plattsburgh Air Force base in Plattsburgh, N.Y. The DHS opened a new facility Friday in Plattsburgh, one of five bases that will be responsible for tightening surveillance along the U.S.-Canadian border.

officials to watch the largely unprotected border more closely after the terrorism of Sept. 11, 2001. The government already relies on periodic patrols by radar-equipped planes from Plattsburgh and other points, but the permanent stations are designed to allow regular surveillance.

"Unfortunately, security mea-

sures on our northern border have suffered from a lack of resources and having the Plattsburgh Air and Marine Branch will level the playing field," said U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, a Democratic member of the Senate Armed Services committee.

Similar air patrols have been conducted along the Mexican border for more than three decades.

Bus crash kills 15

MARION, Ark. — Fifteen people were killed early Saturday when a tour bus from Chicago crashed on Interstate 55 in northeastern Arkansas, police said.

Authorities say the bus was headed to Tunica, Miss., a popular destination for casino gambling, when the accident happened about 5 a.m., state police spokesman Bill Sadler said.

An undetermined number of other passengers were injured and taken to hospitals. Seven were listed in stable condition at a hospital in West Memphis.

Thirty people were aboard the bus, which was the only vehicle involved in the crash. Some of the dead were found crushed beneath the bus after wrecker crews arrived to pull it upright, Sadler said.

Authorities on the scene had not determined a cause.

The accident occurred near Marion, about 130 miles northeast of Little Rock.

Fraternity death

BOULDER, Colo. — Members of a fraternity scrawled racial and other slurs on the body of an 18-year-old pledge who was passed out and died hours later of alcohol poisoning, the young man's father said.

Lynn Gordon Bailey, father of Gordie Bailey, said early Friday the corner told him markings were found on his son's arms, legs and trunk. Gordie Bailey was 18.

Bailey and the other pledges of the University of Colorado chapter of Chi Psi began the evening of Sept. 16 blooded and abandoned in the woods. Police said the pledges were told to drink large amounts of whiskey and wine.

When found the next morning, Bailey's blood-alcohol level was 0.238 percent, four times the legal limit for driving in Colorado.

The national headquarters of Chi Psi has shut down the Boulder chapter.

Boy dies from bite

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A 5-year-old boy's death was the result of a bite by a poisonous brown recluse spider, the state medical examiner ruled.

Nicholas Robinson was bitten while playing outside his home about 70 miles south of Nashville on July 29.

The child was taken to a doctor, who determined he was suffering from a virus rather than a bite. However, that night the child was rushed to a hospital, where his symptoms indicated hypersalivation, sweating and neurological problems before he died, according to the medical examiner's report, completed Thursday.

The brown recluse is one of two common spiders in the United States — the other is the black widow — that are considered poisonous. The National Institutes of Health said. The bite can cause a rash, swelling and flu-like symptoms and in rare cases, kidney failure, seizures and coma.

The spider is most common in the South and central United States.

From The Associated Press

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Howard scores victorious fourth term in Australia

Premier's win ensures U.S. ally will keep its troops in Iraq

BY MIKE CORDER

The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — Prime Minister John Howard scored a convincing victory in Australia's federal election Saturday, winning a historic fourth term in a vote that will ensure the staunch U.S. ally will keep its troops in Iraq for the foreseeable future.

"My fellow Australians ... I am truly humbled by this extraordinary expression of confidence in the leadership of this great nation by the coalition," Howard told cheering supporters of his conservative alliance in Sydney.

"In accepting their charge to lead the nation I rededicate myself and all of my colleagues to the service of the Australian people."

With more than 77 percent of votes tallied, Howard appeared likely to increase his government's majority in parliament — exceeding most analysts' predictions that the result would be very tight.

Labor Party leader Mark Latham earlier conceded defeat before supporters in western Sydney, saying he'd called Howard to congratulate him.

"Tonight was not our night," Latham told the crowd.

The election was widely seen abroad as the first referendum for the three leaders who launched the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, with U.S. President Bush facing a ballot next month and Britain's Tony Blair probably facing voters next year.

Labor had vowed to bring the roughly 900 Australian troops deployed in and around Iraq home by Christmas, while Howard insisted they will stay until Iraqis ask them to leave.

But Australians focused more on the economy, health and education than on Howard's decision to join the Bush-led coalition in Iraq — which drew hundreds of thousands of people into the streets for the biggest antiwar protests in this country since the Vietnam war era.

The campaign also hinged on personalities, with three-term incumbent Howard seen as a colorless but a reliable steward of the economy, and Latham perceived as young and energetic, but also inexperienced and sometimes undisciplined.

With more than three-fifths of votes counted, official results showed Howard's coalition had 52.4 percent to Labor's 47.6 percent.



John Howard

Government is formed by the side that has a majority of seats in parliament's 150-seat lower house.

"Tonight was not our night," Latham told a crowd of supporters in Sydney's blue-collar western suburbs, adding that he had phoned Howard to concede victory to him.

Howard sent 2,000 troops to Iraq last year despite protests that portrayed him as Bush's lackey. The number has since dwindled to 900, and none have combat roles. No Australian soldiers have been killed.

Latham argued that the Iraq invasion was a distraction from the international fight against terrorism, and wants to focus Australia's security policy closer to home in Southeast Asia.

That was a clear nod to this country's fears of attacks after the Oct. 12, 2002, bombings on Bali Island that killed 202 people, many of them Australians, and the bombing of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta on Sept. 9 in which nine people died. But the message apparently did not resonate.

"I was very concerned when the Labor Party said it would pull out the troops by Christmas," said John Atkins, 59, after lodging his vote for Howard in Sydney, despite personally opposing the Iraq war. "We should never have gone in, but once we had we need to stay."

Howard's team became confident almost as soon as polls closed in the island continent's heavily populated eastern states, when early counting showed the government had taken an early lead. They grew ecstatic as the margin held throughout the night.

Spaniard wins World Monopoly Championship



Spain's Antonio Zafrá Fernández, right, is congratulated by "Mr. Monopoly" Merwin Goldsmith after he won the World Monopoly Championship in Tokyo on Saturday. Fernández, a 36-year-old hospital laboratory technician from Madrid, Spain, captured the World Monopoly Championship on Saturday after building up a fortune and beating Bjørn Andenæs of Norway. Fernández took home more than \$15,000 and bragging rights as the property-development board game's top player.



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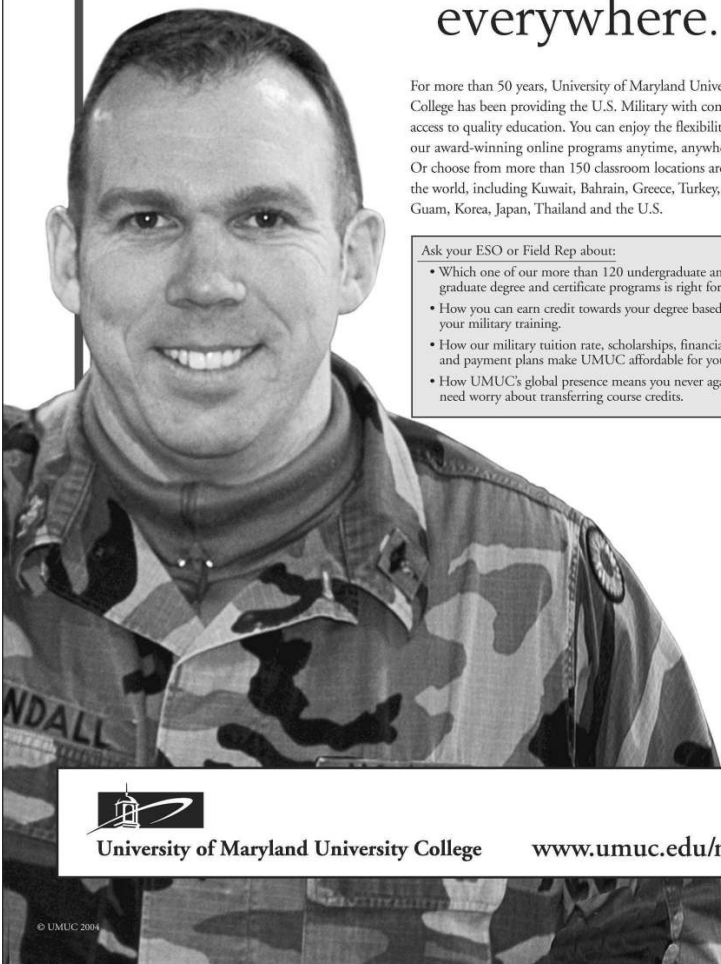
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Dozens of Bedouin tribesmen detained for Egypt attacks

BY PETER ENAV
The Associated Press

TABA, Egypt — Dozens of Bedouin tribesmen have been detained on suspicion they supplied explosives for car bomb attacks at two Egyptian resorts that killed at least 34 people, officials said Saturday.

Israel's counterterrorism chief, meanwhile, said Israeli tourists in Egypt are still in danger and urged them to return home immediately.

Three car bombs exploded Thursday night, one at the Taba Hilton just south of the Egypt-Israel border and two in a town of beach huts, Ras Shitan, 35 miles to the south on the Red Sea coast.

Egyptian officials said Saturday that 34 people were killed. In Taba, seven Egyptians, three Israelis and 20 bodies still unidentified have been recovered, they said, and two Egyptians and two Israelis were killed in Ras Shitan. Israeli officials put the death toll at 33.

In Taba, three bodies, including that of a toddler, were pulled from the twisted wreckage of the hotel Saturday, the Israeli military said. Col. Gideon Bar-on, a member of the Israeli army rescue unit, told Israeli Radio that 13 more bodies were believed to be under the rubble.

Some Israeli officials believe the al-Qaida terror network was most likely behind the attack, while Egypt says it is too early to point to suspects.

At the Taba Hilton, investigators searched the rubble Saturday for a lead on the identities of the attackers.

Fingerprints were lifted from

the apparent car bomb, which had been packed with 440 pounds of explosives, and DNA samples were taken from nearby body parts to determine whether suicide bombers drove the vehicle, Egyptian security officials said on condition of anonymity.

Investigators also were doing "just analysis" around the explosion sites to determine exactly what sort of explosives were used, an Egyptian investigator said on condition of anonymity.

Samples were being sent to Cairo for the analysis.

The security officials said several dozen Bedouin tribesmen have been detained for questioning about suspicions they provided the explosives to the attackers.

A senior police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 20 people were being held, some of them quarry workers who presumably had access to explosives. Those 20, some or all of them Bedouins, appeared to be among the dozens to whom security officials had referred.

The head of Israel's Shin Bet security service, Avi Dichter, toured the scene of the hotel explosion Saturday and met with Egyptian security officials.

At Ras Shitan, several Bedouin tribesmen, including the owner of the camp, were questioned by Egyptian security officials. American diplomats also visited the camp Saturday, to check on possible American casualties, and quickly left.

There were several claims of responsibility — including one from an al-Qaida-linked group — but none appeared credible.

Associated Press writer Sarah El Deeb contributed to this report from Ras Shitan.

U.N. moves to tackle global upsurge in terrorist attacks

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council moved on several fronts to tackle the global upsurge in terrorist attacks, calling on all countries to prosecute or extradite terrorist suspects and starting a process that could lead to a greatly expanded list of terrorists subject to sanctions and punishment.

A resolution adopted unanimously by the council on Friday backed away from authorizing a new blacklist, but it authorized a "working group" including all council nations to study measures to be taken against terrorists and terrorist groups that are not affiliated with Al-Qaida or the Taliban.

This will be the first time the council examines what actions to take against other terrorists, and the seven co-sponsors of the resolution including Russia and the United States are expected to make an expanded terrorist list a priority in the working group.

Russia introduced the resolution last month after militants staged a series of attacks. It was adopted a day after a spate of deadly car bombings targeted Israelis in Egyptian resorts in Sinai.

The resolution "condemns in the strongest terms all acts of terrorism irrespective of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed, as one of the

Asian, European leaders urge larger global U.N. role

The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — Asian and European leaders called for the United Nations to take a lead role in confronting global challenges of terrorism and nuclear proliferation, closing a summit Saturday aimed at providing a counterweight to U.S. influence.

Leaders at the two-day meeting in the Vietnamese capital of the Asia-Europe Meeting, or ASEM, also urged Myanmar's military leaders to push democratic reforms — and on the summit sidelines, clinched a landmark trade deal between the European Union and meeting host Vietnam.

The meeting had nearly been scuttled over EU attempts to bar Myanmar's participation, over the protests of Asian countries. The EU backed down and Myanmar was inducted into the group, along with two other Asian nations and 10 European ones, bringing ASEM up to 39 members.

But the EU demanded that Myanmar release pro-democracy campaigner Aung San Suu Kyi or face new sanctions. And in its final nine-page statement, the forum urged Myanmar's ruling junta to lift restrictions on political parties and allow an open debate on democratic reform.

The summit statement said the United Nations should take a central role in confronting terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and globalization.

The forum also urged "accelerated reform" of the United Nations and its Security Council to increase its effectiveness.

The two days of closed sessions covered a wide range of issues, including North Korea's nuclear weapons program and Iraq's instability.

most serious threats to peace and security." It demands broader co-operation among nations to find and bring to justice anyone supporting, participating or financing terrorist acts "on the basis of the principle to extradite or prosecute."

But Algeria and Pakistan, the only Muslim nations on the council, objected to the list and to a provision they argued would be used to label freedom fighters as terrorists.

But Algeria and Pakistan, the only Muslim nations on the council, objected to the list and to a provision they argued would be used to label freedom fighters as terrorists.

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Somali leaders set to elect new president

The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Somali clan leaders debated the virtues of 28 presidential candidates Saturday before an election intended to bring stability to a country that has had no government for more than a decade, has no money in its treasury, and is in the hands of warlords.

Somali leaders can't even predict when a new government would be able to return safely to Somalia because of violence there and the undisciplined militias that rule the divided capital, Mogadishu.

So, while participants hail this weekend's vote, capping a two-year peace process, as a major step toward bringing a semblance of normalcy to the anarchic nation, many observers fear a catastrophic failure.

Somalia has had no govern-

ment since 1991, when warlords overthrew dictator Mohammed Siad Barre and then turned their guns on each other, dividing the country into fiefdoms.

The sponsors of the peace process — the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, the United Nations and the European Union — have declared the talks an unequal success because almost every warlord has participated and the leaders of neighboring countries have been part of the peace process.

Candidates from every clan, most of the armed factions and some civic leaders are among the 27 men and one woman running for president.

The Somali lawmakers will meet at a Nairobi sports stadium on Sunday and vote in a multi-round process designed to winnow the number of candidates to two and then select a winner.





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Sunday Horoscope

The Virgo moon may trigger a chain reaction — perhaps something that was unfinished or unexplained last month can now be wrapped up in a neat little package. Clear the surfaces of your life (and while you're at it, scrub them down) to see what still needs doing. When bills, errands and filing are finished, an "ah-ha" moment will come.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 10). Your plans come together. Over the next two months, you'll get outstanding energy and will do twice the work load that you normally can handle. For this reason, you're promoted and paid quite well.

Love with a Cancer or Aries happens at the beginning of the year.

Make a decision in March about where to live — new locations are fabulously lucky.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Being objective in love is nearly impossible. Tell your thoughts to someone trustworthy, and see what this person comes back with. Having a sounding board is invaluable. Experienced people have much to offer you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Group goals are attained before personal ones — rest on being as accountable to yourself as you are to others. Your style attracts a quality partner, but of course, your sexiest quality is sheer determination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Loved ones are more generous when you make demands or at least talk openly about your ambitions. Taking emotional risks brings good results. Old disagreements are resolved by sunset.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Expansive energies are working in your favor. You have earned your right to the very best, so let yourself have it.

Do not expect romance to follow a formula. Be flexible, and eventually, you get your way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your exceptional observational skills give you an edge. An alluring new person

could distract you from your main focus — and it's so much more fun! Keep spending to a minimum. You've got nothing to prove.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're hot on the social scene, and you don't even have to try! Being around family is like hanging out with a mirror.

Use what you're learning to decide which habits to keep and which to lose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You crave the unobtainable. Still be careful not to choose a target solely based on the fact that it looks impossible to hit. Your quest to save money is on track. The key changes you've made have become habits.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Keep dreaming about where you want to be. Then, you can work backward to construct a framework for accomplishment. Being in front of people is featured. You'll be nervous but will do very well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The check really is in the mail, but it's going to take an extra couple of days to reach you. In the meantime, make a definite financial plan. Consider upcoming travel in your decision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're the victor in competitions. Rely on your network. If you need to make a few social appearances in order to get things done, by all means, get on the phone. Friends would love to help.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's something that you just can't get off your mind. Take a break from worry — even if it means you have to distract yourself. Some time socializing out on the town is just what you need.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Time waters abound. You'd be wise to unplug the computer (step away from the Internet) for the afternoon. Couples: Time apart, however unappealing that sounds, gives perspective on your wonderful relationship.

Creators Syndicate

Notoriously vague meaning

My husband recently met my boss for the first time, and upon being introduced to him said "Ah, the notorious Steve." My boss' eyebrows rose as he replied, "Notorious? I didn't think I was that bad." When I looked up the definition of "notorious" I understood his reaction. Is my husband's mistake a common one?

Your husband's mistake is certainly not unheard of.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition, defines "notorious" as "generally known and talked of; especially; widely and unfavorably known;" your boss' reaction shows that it's this second part of the definition

that comes to mind when he hears the word "notorious." Our evidence shows that most writers associate the term "notorious" with the negative. The word is often used to modify nouns for an undesirable person, such as "gunman," or "thief." However, usage writers do not agree entirely on the term.

When there are no moral overtones, as is sometimes the case, "notorious" is used as a more emphatic term for "celebrated," "famous" or "well-known."

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, tenth edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Redwood City, P.O. Box 298, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Wife's assumption about man's actions leads to end of marriage

Dear Abby: I have seen letters in your column on signs of a cheating spouse. Allow me to offer a word of caution.

The "guilty" husband or wife could very well be innocent. A year and a half ago, I began working out at a nearby gym during my lunch hour. My wife, "Connie," and I were both overweight when I started my exercise program. I ended up losing 55 pounds.

During this time, Connie was still gaining. When she'd complain about her weight, I tried to be supportive and reassure her that she was still attractive to me, but said that I was worried about her health. Connie knew I had the same concerns about my own health, and that's why I was trying to get into shape. Once I started, I discovered I enjoyed my exercise routine, including the fact I had to myself. I work a 40-hour week, and spend every other available moment with my wife and three young sons. After my weight came down, I needed new clothes and renewed myself with a new wardrobe. Around the same time, I shaved off my beard and began sporting a new, shorter

haircut that made me look years younger. I felt like a new man.

Connie became convinced I was having an affair and went out and had an affair of her own. Suddenly, my wife wanted to go "work out" or "go shopping" two or three evenings a week. I eagerly volunteered to watch our boys so Connie could enjoy the time for herself. Little did I know she was driving an hour out of state to have sex with a guy she met on the Internet. I was devastated when I found out.

Connie told me she thought the reason I had been so accommodating was because I was cheating, so she was fighting fire with fire.

We are now in the process of divorce, and Connie is in therapy. The guy she was seeing is married with four children — so now, two marriages are messed up. Please share my story with your readers, Abby. I CAN happen.

—Lost Weight and a Wife in Washington State

Dear Lost: How sad. As your experience proves, people who fight fire with fire usually wind up with ashes. Your wife's self-esteem was so low, she assumed

you had found someone more attractive. How much sorrow could have been avoided had she discussed her fears with you.

Dear Abby: I am in the California National Guard. Last year I was activated and sent to Iraq. My wife has not written to me since last November. It takes me up to three weeks to get her on the phone because she wants to run and hide with my friends.

All I know is that I am married, and she's acting as if I don't count, only my friends do. How can I make her understand how much she is hurting me by ignoring me while I'm over here fighting?

—Heartbroken Soldier in Iraq
Dear Heartbroken Soldier: If the woman you married is of normal intelligence, I'm sure she already knows it. It appears you have married someone who is either extremely immature or without priorities or conscience. Spouses promise to support each other in good times and in bad — and as a military wife, her first objective should be to reassure her husband whose life is on the line every day he's away.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.pittsburgh.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

My friend is now sleeping with woman's 17-year-old son

Dear Abby: My friend, "Teresa," lost her husband last year after a long illness. A few months later, she wound up pregnant by a 20-year-old. She is raising the baby alone, along with her 10-year-old son from her marriage.

Teresa was having money problems, so when she found a job, I offered to baby-sit for free to help her out. On weekends, I let my 17-year-old son, "Kyle," baby-sit. One day, when I was at Teresa's, her 10-year-old said, "My mommy told Kyle, 'I asked my son if anything was going on between them, and he said, 'No.'"

Three months ago, Kyle informed me that when he turns 18, he would be living with Teresa. When I confronted Teresa, she couldn't even look me in the eye. My husband and I got into a huge fight with Kyle.

We told him he was not to see Teresa anymore. He promised to stop, but last week, I accidentally picked up the phone and heard Kyle and Teresa talking. He became angry with me and said he was moving in with Teresa and would be coming back. I spit out, "Go right ahead."

Kyle moved about three days ago, and I haven't spoken to him

since. Teresa is 34 years old. She was supposed to be my friend. What would make a woman that age want to sleep with a 17-year-old boy?

—Distracted Mother
Dear Mother: Let's assume Teresa is a lost soul since her husband's death, and so desperate for affection that she grasps at those who are easiest for her to manipulate. Nonetheless, that does not excuse her behavior.

Your state may have legal penalties for a woman having sex with a boy under 18, especially if there is more than a 10-year age gap between them. Talk to your state's attorney's office for information about legal recourse. If Kyle is old enough to give consent, the best you can do now is make peace with him and with Teresa, so you can stay in touch with your son and be a source of support when he needs you.

And if Kyle decides he made a mistake, resist the urge to say, "I told you so."

Dear Annie: "A Confused Son" said his mother blatantly favors his sister and her children. He has my sympathy. Last Christmas, my mother-in-law

bought tons of presents for her daughter's children, but not a single one for mine. She treats my kids like second-class citizens.

My mother-in-law has told me point-blank that she doesn't like me or my kids (her own grandchildren). My husband says that's just the way she is and I shouldn't let it bother me. He insists on taking our children to see her, even though they are miserable for the entire visit.

—End of My Rope

Dear Rope: You weren't the only one who identified with that letter.

Read on:

Washington, D.C.: When my daughter called Grandma to tell her she'd won a golf tournament, Mom's only reply was, "Your cousin takes ballet." The last straw was on my daughter's birthday, when my mother refused to come because it would interfere with her other grandchildren's nap time. My children are deeply affected by her grandmother's blatant favoritism, and I no longer let them visit her.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniemailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Greater Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Dear Abby



RELIGION



Lakewood Church pastor Joel Osteen has a best-selling book and a national tour, and he'll soon have a new, \$78 million home for his church — the former Compaq Center, onetime home of the Houston Rockets. The church will have 16,000 seats and two waterfalls.

Houston arena goes from a hops site to a holy site

Megachurch taking over basketball team's old home

By BOBBY ROSS JR.
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — On his first date, Joel Osteen and his future bride, Victoria, went out to watch a Houston Rockets basketball game at the team's home, then called The Summit.

Two decades later, the fast-growing megachurch that Osteen pastors is spending \$78 million to turn the Rockets' former arena — later renamed the Compaq Center — into its new spiritual home, with 16,000 seats, two waterfalls and plenty of television cameras for Lakewood Church's nationally broadcast services.

The 41-year-old minister chuckles at the coincidence as he stands in the arena where true love was born and where he predicts as many as 100,000 people will someday worship every weekend.

"God's got a sense of humor," Osteen said, talking over the buzz of heavy machinery transforming locker rooms into children's classrooms. "I never dreamed as a kid that this would be our place."

In fact, Osteen never dreamed he would be a preacher — much less one leading the Protestant church ranked as the nation's largest in a study by Church Growth Today, based in Bolivar, Mo.

Osteen took over as Lakewood's senior pastor five years

ago — on Oct. 3, 1999 — after his father, John Osteen, died at age 77. The elder Osteen founded the charismatic Christian church in an abandoned feed store in 1959.

Over the next 40 years, Lakewood grew to average Sunday attendance of about 6,000 in its 7,800-seat sanctuary. The new facility, expected to open next summer, will more than double the seating capacity.

These days, the man nicknamed "The Smiling Preacher" is everywhere, it seems.

Flip through the cable channels on Sunday and he's hard to miss, with ABC Family, Black Entertainment Television, Discovery Channel, Turner Broadcasting and PAX among the national networks that air his program.

His first book, "Your Best Life Now," published by Warner Faith, hits stores this month and sold 130,000 copies in advance.

And he's taking his sermons and Lakewood's choir on a national road tour. Already, he has preached to packed arenas in Atlanta and Anaheim, Calif., and he will be at New York's Madison Square Garden on Oct. 21-22.

Surprisingly, Osteen had never preached — and never had the desire, he says — until the Sunday before his dad died in January 1999.

"I liked to be behind the

scenes," said Osteen, who left his studies at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla., in 1982 and joined his father's staff as a television producer. "My heart was the production and the editing and things like that."

But when his father was hospitalized, he reluctantly stepped to the pulpit. His dad listened to the sermon by telephone from his hospital bed.

Since then, Lakewood has expanded to four English services each weekend and added a Spanish service — preached by a different pastor.

The English services draw an almost equal mix of whites, blacks and Hispanics — diversity not seen in most churches.

Laid-back and far from fiery, Osteen starts each message by asking congregants to hold up their Bibles and commit themselves to the "ever-living seed of the Word of God."

Asked to explain the growth, Osteen said, "I think the message of hope and encouragement resonates with people... I don't know if there's one thing. I know it's just God's blessings."

For critics, the cheerful pastor makes an easy target.

"To me, it's cotton-candy theology," said Ole Anthony, president of Trinity, a Dallas-based religious watchdog group.

But Osteen's admirers say he's just what a hurting world needs.

Trio blends old, new worship music on new CD

By BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

Worship music is all about lifting voices in praise, and Phillips, Craig and Dean seem to know exactly how to make the lifting easy.

The trio just released its third installment of a worship trilogy that's designed to get the faithful singing. "Let the Worshipers Arise" includes a few new songs but concentrates on presenting new versions of already-popular music.

"From the outset we wanted people to hear songs that ... are familiar and they can hear our interpretation of these songs," said Dan Dean, who joins with Randy Phillips and Shawn Craig to form the group known for its blend of harmonies and upbeat adult-contemporary style.

"We haven't selected as many original songs because we want people to sing along," Dean said. To come up with its mix, the group checked the stats on which songs are most popular in contemporary worship services. If worshippers were singing it, they wanted to record it, said Dean, who's also pastor of Christ Temple in Irving, Texas.

As a result, we hear new versions of "You Are God Alone," "In Christ Alone," "My Redeemer Lives" and "Making Melody" that contain fresh bursts of energy. And the disc opens with "Friend of God," a song that isn't as familiar but is likely to gain popularity.

One of the disc's new songs is the title track, written by Michael Ferrin and discovered during a contest on Phillips' local TV show.

"Man, we fell in love with the song," Dean said. "I hear a lot of passion in that song." The soaring vocals in "Let the Worshipers Arise" embody the philosophy behind the disc — whole-hearted praise.

The disc's formula appears to be working because

it debuted last week at No. 7 on the Billboard "Heatseekers" chart.

If some of the performances exhibit extra energy, it may be because of the trials Dean and his wife, Becky, experienced during the disc's development.

A car accident broke Becky's neck and left her bedridden for about three months. "Because God helped us, she didn't experience any paralysis," Dean said.

That struggle worked to strengthen the couple's faith.

"When people are going through difficult times one of the greatest issues is an issue of trust," Dean said. "When something like this happens you start thinking: 'Why did this happen?' ... Yet in the middle of this you reach a point where you say, 'God, I don't know why this happened but I trust you.' Trust God. He will help you through difficult situations in life."

The feelings generated by this struggle carried over to the new CD. "The passion with which I sang on this album was definitely influenced" by the difficulties, he said.

Dean said the injury and recovery also strengthened the couple's relationship. "When you get married, you think about love ... but you don't know about love until you walk through some difficult situations."

A final note: Dean was eager to express his support for U.S. troops.

"I have a real special place in my heart for the military. ... My father is a disabled veteran in World War II," he said.

"These guys love their country and really sacrificed," the singer said.

On the Web: www.pcdministries.com

Today's Praise is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears twice a month on the Religion page.

E-mail Brian Bowers at: bowers@stripes.ods.mil



Courtesy of INO Records

Shawn Craig, Dan Dean and Randy Phillips (from left) make up the contemporary Christian trio Phillips, Craig and Dean. Their new CD is "Let the Worshipers Arise."

Warden fired

FL ZEPHYRHILLS — The warden and five other officers at Zephyrhills Correctional Institution have lost their jobs after the discovery that a suicidal female inmate was held naked at the prison for several days.

Investigators said they found no evidence the 27-year-old woman, the only female inmate at the prison, was sexually abused.

Ivey said the departures of the six employees, all men, were a result of their failure to follow prison rules.

Ikea coming to Brooklyn

NY NEW YORK — The City Council has approved a plan to build a 346,000-square-foot Ikea store on a former shipyard in Brooklyn.

The proposed \$100 million development would be the home furnishing superstore's first location within city limits. The plan must still win approval by the state Environmental Conservation Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Ikea and its supporters have said the store would bring 600 jobs and thousands of shoppers to the down-at-heel Red Hook section of Brooklyn, which has been undergoing redevelopment in recent years.

Man protests Nader

CA SANTA MONICA — A peace activist who once fasted for 63 days to protest movie violence and war toys is launching an other hunger strike to persuade Ralph Nader to abandon his presidential bid.

Jerry Rubin, 60, said he plans to consume only liquids until Election Day if Nader doesn't take a meeting with him.

Many believe the votes Nader received in Florida in 2000 would have gone to Democratic candidate Al Gore had Nader sat out the election.

2 charged with bribery

IL CHICAGO — Two Chicago employees were charged with doing out work in a scandal-plagued city trucking program in exchange for payoffs and campaign contributions from trucking companies.

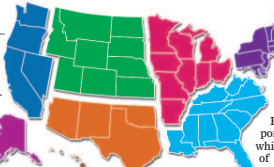
The two were charged with mail fraud and bribery as federal prosecutors expanded their investigation of fraud in the \$38 million Hired Truck Program — designed to save the city money by outsourcing such work as hauling materials to construction sites.

Authorities said the trucking companies risked being frozen out of city work if they didn't pay the money. Trucking company owners said they were besieged for campaign money for unnamed candidates.

Mines shut down

WV HUNTINGTON — Unionized mines purchased from bankrupt Horizon Natural Resources have been shut down, and the United Mine Workers said it will treat the closures as a strike.

Picket lines will go up at six former Horizon operations in West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana and Il-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

linis, UMW President Cecil E. Roberts said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Horizon filed for bankruptcy in November 2002, and its properties were sold. The company operated 20 mining complexes in the four states, of which six were represented by the UMW.

The union mines were closed after a federal judge concluded that leaving the union's contracts in place would make the properties less marketable.

Police chief arrested

PA HARRISBURG — A small-town police chief who prosecutors said repeatedly smoked seized marijuana while on duty was arrested on drug possession and other charges.

Police Chief Brian S. Cara, of Weatherly, in northeastern Pennsylvania, was released on personal-recognition bail after his arraignment on charges of possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, obstruction of justice and attempted obstruction.

The state attorney general's office said a grand jury heard evidence that cocaine and marijuana had disappeared from the Carbon County police department's evidence locker since 2002.

Using a hidden video camera, state drug agents allegedly observed Cara smoking pot on duty



In living bronze

Dennis Jacobson, president of the Souris Valley Danish Society, unveils a life-size bronze statue of Danish author Hans Christian Andersen in Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot, N.D.

nine times, then numerous other times over the next two days.

Plans to reopen

HI HONOLULU — The University of Hawaii plans to reopen a portion of Lyon Arboretum, which has been closed because of "serious health and safety concerns," to a limited number of volunteers later this month, officials said.

Structural engineers reviewed the safety of five buildings on the upper Manoa Valley property. Based on a preliminary report, officials decided it was safe to allow volunteers to return to parts of the arboretum while restricting access to some areas.

The university has not come up with a timetable for reopening the arboretum to the public.

Testing wine stoppers

OR PORTLAND — Wine snobs may snub screw-off caps in place of natural corks, but a study says they have no reason to whine.

A blind taste test done by researchers for Oregon State University has found that the stopper — be it natural cork, synthetic cork or a cap — makes no discernible difference in taste.

But in a second study, consumers given a choice between the two kinds of stoppers were much more likely to choose corked wine, saying it was better quality. Others said they would pay less for wine that was topped with a screw-top bottle.

Man assaults lawyer

LA BATON ROUGE — A man on trial for taking a kindergarten hostage leaped up in court and slashed his public defender with a razor blade.

Barbette Williams, 48, of New Orleans was booked with attempted second-degree murder for injuring lawyer Bert Garraway.

Williams wrapped his arms around Garraway and cut him above the eye and on the neck just as the defense lawyer was about to rest his case.

Garraway walked out of the courtroom, his shirt red with blood, to go to a hospital for treatment.

Deputies were investigating how Williams got the razor into court.

Couple pleads for dog

NE LINCOLN — Nebraska's Supreme Court heard a plea for mercy on behalf of a death row inmate of the four-legged variety — a dog condemned for fighting with a neighbor's pet.

The dog, Murphy, has been marked for death since 2001, when a judge ordered the Alaskan malamute-shepherd mix destroyed. Murphy's owners appealed, saying it was a scuffle that had been blown out of proportion. Three years later the case reached the highest court in the state.

But authorities argued that Murphy is a menace to society. Doug and Lorelei Dittme adopted Murphy in 1994 after a friend found her malnourished and lying in a ditch.

The court could take several months to rule. A judge allowed the Dittmes to keep custody of Murphy while they appeal.



Old-fashioned farming

Grayson Martin, 5, from Oak Hall Episcopal School in Ardmore, Okla., grimaces as he attempts to send an ear of corn through a hand-cranked sheller from the early 1900s in Sulphur, Okla.



Run as fast as you can

Hilton Head Elementary School students charge from the starting line during the school's annual Otter Trot on Hilton Head Island, S.C.



Up close and personal An owl butterfly lands the face of Kendall Thomas, 9, a fourth-grade student from the Bedford Village School in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Creepy crawler A spider works on a web in the early morning in a field near Bettendorf, Iowa.



One thirsty duck A duck gets ready to submerge its head into a puddle at the end of Minnesota Street in Carson City, Nev.



Dodge this! Iowa State University sophomore John Kenyon jumps over a throw during the Cardinal Division Dodgeball Tournament held at the Lied Recreation Center on campus.

In need of translators

TX AUSTIN — Some Texas election officials are struggling to find enough Spanish-speaking clerks to work at polling places on Election Day.

The scramble comes amid increased federal monitoring of how counties comply with election requirements for bilingual clerks and election materials.

Election officials, who say recruiting poll workers in general is hard, say they have tried to find Spanish speakers through the Internet, newspapers, radio, television and Hispanic chambers of commerce.

Hispanics make up 32 percent of the overall population in Texas, which recently became a majority minority state.

Tribe appeals to court

VA RICHMOND — The Mataponi Indian tribe asked the state's high court to review lower court rulings allowing the construction of a reservoir that it claims violates a 17th-century treaty. The tribe said the King William County Board of Supervisors' plan to build a reservoir on land near its 150-acre reservation and imperil the health of the shad fishery that has sustained its people for centuries.

Car explosion

NJ WEEHAWKEN — A car parked on a street exploded, killing its driver, blowing out windows and rattling residents of a neighborhood overlooking the Lincoln Tunnel.

The blast appears to have been an accident, said state police spokesman Sgt. Kevin Rehmann.

The victim, whose name was not immediately released, worked as a pipefitter, Rehmann said, and investigators found an acetylene tank in the back seat and another gas cylinder in the trunk of the burned-out Volkswagen. Investigators said the tanks may have leaked, and the gas may have been ignited by the car's ignition or a cigarette.

Suspicious bag destroyed

MS JACKSON — Airport security officials destroyed a passenger's carry-on bag after an X-ray showed a suspicious object and the owner falsely claimed to be a law enforcement officer, officials said.

No bomb was found, and the passenger was being questioned, said Larry Rowlett, federal security director for airports in Mississippi.

The bomb scare closed the airport for an hour. Hundreds of people were evacuated, and flights were delayed.

The passenger told officials that the suspicious item was a phone charger, but the item did not match the phone he was carrying, Rowlett said. The bag was blown apart with a water cannon in an airport stairwell, and among the remains were wires, a telephone battery, tweezers and a cassette player, authorities said.

Embarrassing mistakes

CA LIVERMORE — Spelling counts — especially at a library.

A \$40,000 ceramic mural was unveiled outside the city's new library and everyone could see the

misspelled names of Einstein, Shakespeare, Vincent Van Gogh, Michelangelo and seven other historical figures.

Artist Maria Alquilar said she was willing to fix the work, which is 16 feet wide and made up of brightly colored ceramic pieces. But she offered no apologies for the 11 misspellings, including "Eistein," "Shakespeare" and "Michaelangelo," among the 175 names.

Anyway, she said, the mistakes wouldn't even register with a true artisan.

Runaway arrested

NE OMAHA — A 15-year-old runaway girl and a male companion were arrested in Nebraska, ending a two-day chase by police that prompted schools to cancel some activities.

Wendy Valencia's parents reported their daughter as a runaway. Police later found her and were preparing to take her home when she allegedly stole an unmarked squad car and eluded authorities at speeds up to 100 mph.

Two people were spotted in a stolen car, and authorities concluded the girl had a companion with her. But the two managed to ditch the vehicle and flee after firing shots at a patrol car, authorities said. The officer was not injured, police said.

Police conducted an intensive search, using an airplane, helicopter and tracking dogs. The two were arrested in Phelps County, about 200 miles west of Omaha, according to Deb Collins, a spokeswoman with the Nebraska State Patrol.

No formal charges were immediately filed against either the girl or her companion, identified as Emeterio Guajardo, 18.

Capping the stench

WA SUNNYSIDE — Hoping to shed the nickname "Smellyside," the City Council has approved a \$2.5 million agreement to move a 150-acre feedlot out of this Yakima Valley town.

A deal for the town to buy the land from Monson Ranches Feed Co., which promised not to open a similar operation within 20 miles, was approved after years of unsuccessful negotiations.

Boosters in the central Washington town of 13,900 have blamed the feedlot, a source of frequently pervasive dust and reeking manure from 25,000 head of cattle, for hampering commercial and residential development.

Smokers support ban

ME AUGUSTA — A majority of smokers support Maine's smoking ban in bars, lounges and pool halls, according to a new survey.

A poll commissioned by the Maine Coalition on Smoking or Health shows that 54 percent of Maine residents who smoke support the ban, up from 40 percent who favored it when the law went into effect Jan. 1. Among all respondents, 76 percent said they favor the smoking ban, up from 71 percent last December.

Carol Kelly, director of the Augusta-based coalition, said she was particularly heartened by the number of smokers who support the law.

Stories and photos from wire services.

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://mvafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Walter Scott's **Personality** PARADE®

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

QIn a recent item on Edd Hall, you said he was the announcer for David Letterman before joining Jay Leno. Well, unless he shared the mike with my dad, Bill Wendell — who was the announcer — your facts are a bit off. — Anne Wendell, Burbank, Calif.

ANo offense to your dad, but we never said Edd Hall was Dave's announcer, only that he was "with Letterman for 10 years." In fact, Edd was a production assistant who also did voices and appeared in sketches. Your dad was indeed Dave's announcer from 1980 to 1995. Bill Wendell — who earlier worked for Bob Hope, Jack Benny and Ernie Kovacs — died of cancer in 1999 at age 75.

QYou said George Clooney was married to Talia Balsam. I thought he was a confirmed bachelor. — Michelle Blue, San Diego, Calif.

AHe is — now. But in 1989, at age 28, George wed Talia, daughter of actor Martin Balsam. Their three-year union ended for the same reason as George's subsequent relationships: He'd rather spend time with his male pals and pot-bellied pig, Max, than with his lady friends. Now, that's what some might call a real "male-chauvinist pig!"



KRT

Clooney: no wife required.

QReports on Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen often mention their dad but never their mom. Are their parents still married? — Sherry Heinrich, Menlo Park, Calif.

ANo. After Dave and Fannie Olsen got divorced in 1996, the twins' mom retired from the spotlight while their dad remained on the board of their multimillion-dollar Dualstar Entertainment Group. Incidentally, Mary-Kate is doing well after treatment for an eating disorder. Both 19-year-olds are carrying a full course load at New York University this semester.



AP

Ubiquitous twins Ashley, left, and Mary-Kate Olsen find a way to skirt the 'is she or isn't she eating' controversy — wearing loose dresses.



AP

Donald Trump hasn't fired fiancée Melania Knauss — yet.

QBesides being there for him, does Donald Trump's fiancée, Melania Knauss, do anything? — Pat Good, Roanoke, Va.

AAs the main squeeze of The Donald, 58, sultry Melania, 33, has her hands full just avoiding those fatal words: "You're fired!"

Q"American Idol" runner-up Diana DeGarmo fell during a tour of "Idol" stars. Is she OK? — Sarah Slapp, Seattle, Wash.

AShe's fine. Diana, 17, stumbled onstage while singing "Crazy in Love," Beyoncé Knowles' hit, but her bruises probably hurt less than the criticism she endured last season from Idol judge Simon Cowell. Since finishing second to Fantasia Barrino, Diana has released the hit single "Dreams" and is recording a solo CD. She plans to finish high school in Georgia.



FOX

'Idol' Diana DeGarmo is fine after taking a tumble on tour.

QI heard that fleet-footed Irish dance phenom Michael Flatley has a new show. Any details? — Sonja Marino, Cassville, N.Y.

AFlatley, 46, is still busy choreographing and rehearsing his new show in Dublin and London. No details, but he promises it will be a departure from his trademark "Lord of the Dance" spectacle, which has four troupes touring the world. Unfortunately, while Flatley was getting back in dancing shape, he was falling out with fiancée Lisa Murphy.

QDid Rush Limbaugh's trouble with drugs and his subsequent stint in rehab cause his wife to divorce him? — Toby A., Fayetteville, Ark.

ANo. Rush's divorce from wife No. 3, Marta, wasn't connected to his abuse of prescription drugs. "It was the familiar sad story of growing apart," a friend tells us. By the way, it was Rush, 53 — not Marta, 45 — who asked for the divorce, which Rush describes as "amicable."

QSmarty Jones, who nearly won the Triple Crown, was retired due to ankle bruising. Did that cause his loss at Belmont? And is he being treated for it now? — S.P., Mechanicsburg, Pa.

ANo and no. "Smarty Jones feels absolutely fine and needs no treatment," says a spokesman for the \$7.6 million prize-winner. "The ankles would only have been an issue if he continued training heavily for races." The small chestnut colt retired to Three Chimneys Farm, near Midway, Ky., where he'll stand at stud, servicing 111 mares a season.

QCan you tell me why the media were all over Jennifer Lopez when she was dating Ben Affleck but seem far less interested in her now that she is married to singer Marc Anthony? — Paul Nack, Denver, Colo.

ABecause a mismatch like Ben and Jen made better copy than a marriage of two kids from the block.

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OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Sen. Edwards holds court
Los Angeles Times

To assess Tuesday's vice presidential debate, you must filter out Sen. John Edwards' superiority at skills that have little relevance to running the country. Edwards is one dynamite debater, and no doubt would be as impressive in a debate against Osama bin Laden as he was against Vice President Dick Cheney. ... Cheney mocked John Kerry's strategy for Iraq as more of an echo than a plan, and indeed Edwards was unimpressed that his ticket offered a significantly different approach for ensuring a successful endgame there. Cheney skewered Kerry's shifting positions on Iraq, dating back to the senator's ill-advised vote against the Gulf War in 1991. ...

But as a spectator sport, the second half of the debate was less satisfying, if only because the more skilled litigator had the easier case to make. It would have been fun to watch what Edwards could have done with Cheney's brief.

Bremer day late, dollar short
The Baltimore Sun

The United States should have had more troops in Iraq after the fall of Baghdad to establish order and prevent looting, says L. Paul Bremer, who had just shown up in the Green Zone back in May 2003 to take charge of the place as American administrator. He now says he wishes he had argued that point more forcefully.

His isn't exactly a brilliant new insight. Plenty of people were saying exactly that at the time, as crowds ransacked offices, stores, museums, banks, oil rigs, weapons depots and nuclear reactors.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld called it the excesses of democracy, but Iraqis lost faith in America at that moment. Yet the public outcry was not enough to get Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki for having the temerity to say that a bigger armed force would be needed, it was clear as day that this opinion was politically incorrect in the Bush administration, and nothing was going to change that.

Doe Bremer, who compounded the blunder by abandoning the Iraqi army soon after he arrived, get points now for speaking out? We don't think so. ...

[We] think Bremer got it exactly wrong. There would have been no American troops in Iraq in May 2003? Wouldn't the United States today be a lot better off?

Kerry's clarity is 'certain'
The Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News

The initial presidential debate came as a pleasant surprise in a dirty campaign season that has been shrouded in substance. There was plenty of substance (Sept. 30) — more than anyone tired of canards about flip-flops and military misadventures may have expected. Most of the substance was a remarkable degree of civility — no space invasion, no character assassination, no welcome retires.

That was a welcome relief as well. The encounter for all of that, was not dry. Neither was it a draw.

Overall, John Kerry made a better showing than President Bush, though each man made a credible case for his own statement of the views that divide them.

Bush, much stronger at the debate podium than he was four years ago, effectively shut down at Kerry's incoherence, and what he characterized as a lack of resolution. ...

Yet Kerry had a telling observation on that. "It's one thing to be certain, but you can't be certain and be wrong. It's another thing to be certain and be right or be certain



"...I WARNED YOU NOT TO WATCH ALL THAT POST-DEBATE SPIN..."

and moving in the right direction or be certain about a principle and then learn new facts and that those new facts put them to use in order to change and get your policy right."

Never in the evening was there a clearer dividing line drawn between the candidates.

Ballot still beats bullet
Chicago Tribune

Almost exactly three years ago, the United States and its allies began bombing the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. At the time, Americans heard a drumbeat of ominous predictions of military catastrophe.

Some self-anointed experts feared that America would be mired in an unwinnable war against an enemy that hid in caves and moved easily among Afghan civilians.

In 2001, Afghanistan offered a glimpse back in time. ... It was a place as isolated and backward as any on Earth. ...

From this rubble and darkness has emerged a country, still fragile and often violent to be sure. But it is a country that, more than any other, now symbolizes the power of democracy to shape the dreams and destiny of a people.

An election will not guarantee the survival of Afghan society. But without elections, there is no chance at all.

Saturday millions of voters flocked to polls, regardless of the dangers. They exercised their most fundamental right in a country where democracy was barely imagined for decades. With that, they joined more than 100 other countries around the world that have discovered the power and majesty of democracy in the last century.

Tough to lick low-carb craze
The Columbian, Vancouver, Wash.

We have been made aware that the Twinkie has been placed on the Endangered Carbohydrates List. The listing includes a variety of high-carb, sugar-loaded victims of the current low-carb diet craze.

The maker of Twinkies, Interstate Bakeries Corp., vows Twinkie survival, however. Its Endangered Carbohydrate Act of sorts includes a Chapter 11 reorganization and the installation of new management. The company and outside food analysts blame the endangered status of baked goods on the high-protein ways of today's consumers. ... But they don't want to return to the voters unless they can say they've "done something" about intelligence reform.

our economy and well-being depend on the freedom to eat fat-inducing foods. And the Twinkie is a heavenly, though unwholesome, slice of Americana. It was created as a Depression-era treat, bringing happiness to the masses.

Adding Twinkie the Kid to the unemployment rolls also would be unfortunate. He is just 33 years old and still good with his lasso, but his three creme-filling bookmarks have made it difficult for him to find other work.

If still unconvinced that the Twinkie is worth saving, consider that when Twinkies suffer, many industries suffer. Five-hundred million Twinkies are made each year. That takes 8 million pounds of sugar, 7 million pounds of flour and 1 million eggs.

Can Fla. keep pace on space?
Florida Today, Melbourne

Cape Canaveral space boosters may have that feeling of doom today following Monday's historic flight of SpaceShipOne, a private rocket that reached space for the second time in five days. ...

Why the foreboding at the Cape? Because SpaceShipOne's mission began and ended in the high desert of Mojave, Calif. — where (designer) Burt Rutan's Mojave Aerospace Ventures Team is based — and not from the storied piece of sand jutting into the Atlantic in Brevard County. ...

The action is in Florida — not Florida — and every day that remains the case is another day that a potentially vital part of Cape Canaveral's future is being squandered. We've seen this coming for several years, and previously urged Gov. Jeb Bush to call a summit and move fast to open the door at Cape Canaveral by making it a business-friendly place for space tourism companies to set up shop. ...

This issue is an unmistakable case of who hesitates being lost. And right now Florida and Cape Canaveral are lost — big time.

Intel legislation has issues
The Daily Nonpareil, Council Bluffs, Iowa

Shortly after the 9/11 commission issued its recommendations for intelligence reform, Congress knocked off work for the rest of the summer only to return to a legislative calendar, foreshortened by the November election, that was — and still is — jammed with stuff the lawmakers must do. ... But they don't want to return to the voters unless they can say they've "done something" about intelligence reform.

What the Senate did is pretty much take up the commission's recommendations intact, principally its proposal for a powerful national intelligence director with full authority over 80 percent of the intelligence budget and hiring and firing authority over most of the 15 intelligence agencies. ...

But the House bill has much else besides. How much else is hard to tell, the Democrats complain, because the bill was drawn up largely in secret. ...

And, as happens with large bills, odd, unexplained bits keep cropping up. One provision, spotted only at the last minute, was a two-paragraph change that would allow the president to bar federal workers engaged in "homeland security" from joining unions or bargaining with their agencies. ...

It's a safe bet that when the House bill makes it to the floor, many of the members won't know what they're voting on. ...

Government might operate that way in an election year, but it shouldn't.

Honor only fair Iraq election
The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

There is absolutely no reason to believe the promised January election in Iraq will be free of violence, fully nationwide and deeply embraced by all Iraqis. It is likely to be deeply flawed, and that poses a huge risk for America. ...

But there is an even greater risk in not holding this election.

Calling off the vote would bolster the cause of insurgency, cast coalition forces even more convincingly to Iraqis and the Arab world as long-term occupiers and political hypocrites and condemn the interim government and its citizenry to chaos. ...

In much of the Arab world, including Iraq, there is widespread belief that the United States will not accept any election that is not favorable to it. Conspiracy theories abound, and whether they involve Iraqi or permanent American military bases are founded on that fear. The only answer is the development of an Iraqi government that most Iraqis see as legitimate and reasonably independent, and that depends upon developing good elections. ...

Whether this first election is flawed or not, and whether or not it installs a leader favorable to Washington, only an internationally recognized breakdown in the electoral process should keep America from accepting it. That is the risk of elections, but it is a risk that democracy demands and America has promised.

YOUR MONEY

Paperwork

Keeping estate files organized will reduce stress for families

"Sue Besaw, from the book *'The Savvy Sailor's Spouse,'* is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband, Jake's, new command. Last week Cmdr. Brown talked about estate planning."

After we returned from the break, the commander continued, "Tonight we have talked about the importance of having your personal property and paperwork organized and the need to have a will, durable power of attorney and medical directive. Now, let's talk about the specific duties of an executor during the probate process and how you can help your executor now."

Brown handed out papers to the front row to be passed back and then discussed each item.

"Your family may hire an estate lawyer to be your executor or to help your executor. Even if a lawyer does the work, your family will still need to be kept informed so everything is done properly."

"Do your homework now so your loved ones can focus on recovering from your loss rather than organizing all your stuff."

"What about figuring out all your government debt benefits in advance?" a petty officer asked. "Can you be more specific?"

"Yes," Brown replied. "There are several things you can do now to help your executor claim your family's government debt benefits."

He gave another stack of papers to the front row of the class to pass back.

"As you can see, it takes a tremendous amount of effort to claim your government benefits after you die. That is why it is important to organize as much as you can now — especially where your family will live once you are gone."

"Find out now who to call at the VA, Social Security offices, DFAS and Tricare for your government benefits. Thinking ahead is important to give your family that extra sense of security."

Finally, take the time to make a sheet with all the contact info and add it to your personal binder.

"That's about all I have. Any questions?"

Everyone was silent for several seconds. Evelyn stood up and said, "Thank you, Commander. That was excellent."

Everyone began to applaud. The commander nodded in appreciation and then walked out after gathering his notes.

Evelyn completed the agenda for the meeting with her normal efficiency. I didn't stay too long to socialize. I wanted to go home and talk to Jake about all these benefits and required paperwork.

It was clear we had to be prepared if something went wrong.

Next week *Sue learns about Tricare.*

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — *"The Savvy Sailor"* and *"The Savvy Naval Officer"* — can be purchased by writing to Master Plan Inc., 500 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20849 or online at www.savvyonweb.com. This article is written and the book is sold with the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, loss or risk — personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is: finance@stripes.osd.mil

Money U.



Ralph Nelson

What you can do now to minimize the stress on your executor after you're gone

What executor has to do for the probate process

Before probate process

Support family members, dependent children
Protect and preserve estate assets
Arrange the funeral
Notify relatives and friends

Probating will

File will with county probate court
Executor validated and appointed

Assembling the estate property

Locate key papers
Review safe deposit box
Claim life insurance and government benefits

Managing the estate

Open estate checking account
Move all bank and investment accounts
Value of all estate assets at time of death
Manage or sell any businesses

Payment of debts and taxes

Obtain claim of final newspaper for creditors
Pay debts and other claims
File final tax returns and pay taxes due

Distribute the remaining estate

Prepare accounting for the probate court
Distribute the assets and other receipts
Discharge from the court

And what you can do to help your executor now

Pick successive guardians for your children
Label keys to cars and homes
Sort out your specific funeral wishes
Make a list of who should be notified

Let executor know location of original will
Property witnessed will, successive executors

Personal property, paperwork binders
Make list of contents and give to executor
Figure out in advance and order forms

Maintain organized bank and investment account records
Up-to-date personal property inventory
Write down any business information

Keep list of people you owe anything to
Minimize your debts
Walk through final federal and state forms

SOURCE: RALPH NELSON

GRAPHICS BY STARS AND STRIPES

What you can do now to minimize the stress on your family after you're gone

Before probate

Funeral/burial/headstone
Death gratuity

Final pay

Social Security lump sum

During probate

Taxes
Life Insurance (SGLI)

Thrift Savings Plan

Request information from Department of Veterans Affairs Office. Review a copy of DD Form 397, Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment.

Order Defense Finance & Accounting Service forms and find procedures.
Get the phone number for the local Social Security office.

Review excludable death allowances — burial, gratuity and travel. Confirm proper beneficiary. Get claims form 8283, Claim for Death Benefits (SGLI/VGLI), from Office of Servicemans Group Life Insurance. Make sure there is a valid Form TSP-3, Designation of Beneficiary, is on file with the TSP record keeper. Fill out rough Form TSP-17.

Post probate

Social Security survivor payments
Dependency indemnity compensation (DIC)

Housing and relocation
VA educational benefits

Health care
Commissary and Exchange

Order a Social Security benefits statement from www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement. Review form SVB1. Get VA Form 21-534 and draft a cover letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs Office serving your area. Find out monthly entitlement. Determine where your family will live if you are not around. Go to the base transportation office for details to move there. Request information from Department of Veterans Affairs Office serving your area on dependent's Educational Assistance Program. Get forms/benefits from all your local offices. You will need IDs for all family members to use these services. Request Form DD 1172 from nearest Uniform Service facility if you don't.

On-demand video games: Good idea, bad choices

BY MATT SLAGLE

The Associated Press

Internet downloads are nothing new when it comes to buying music and software online.

So why does video game shopping still mostly involve either schlepping to a store or waiting for the delivery truck when you order online? Three companies — Comcast Corp., IGN Entertainment, Inc. and Yahoo Inc. — have apparently heard the pleas of impatient gamers who want video games on demand.

If you have a broadband Internet connection and you can tolerate the relatively out-

dated selection, these services pretty much work as advertised. They deliver commercial games directly to your personal computer in a matter of minutes or hours.

For now, only computer games are available, so you can't download new games directly to the PlayStation 2, Xbox or GameCube consoles. And remember, you won't get a printed manual, the box or the CD-ROMs.

I was most impressed with IGN's new "Direct2Drive." It's the only service that lets you — gasp! — buy and own the games.

Compared to my local software store, though, these digital aisles were sparse. There were only 31 games to choose from, including the stealthy "Thief: Deadly Shadows" and "Myst III: Exile." Good stuff, but nothing new like "The Sims 2."

At least Direct2Drive provides a good overview of the game, complete with screen shots and reviews.

I went ahead and bought the WWII combat flight simulator "IL-2 Sturmovik" for \$19.95.

Don't use this service thinking you'll save money. The price was the same as

Web sites that sell physical copies, and I found it often cheaper on eBay.

After creating an account and entering my credit card info, I had to download a special program manager to securely track my 479-megabyte purchase, which was siphoned onto my PC in just over an hour.

Conveniently, it automatically resumed downloading when I had to reboot after a system crash. A few mouse clicks later, I was blasting Nazis from the sky.

Yahoo and Comcast have very similar "on Demand" offerings. Instead of buying, you rent and pay a monthly fee.

SEE GAMES ON PAGE 31

Product review

YOUR MONEY

Games: On-demand options abound

GAMES, FROM PAGE 30

Yahoo's service has been available for several years, and it shows. With 175 games, it has by far the largest selection, with titles that should appeal to hardcore and casual gamers.

But the large library is rather dated, with the newest title being "War Times," a strategy game that was released in April. At least Yahoo has a decent mix of top games from last year, including "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time" and "Tom Clancy's

Splinter Cell."

Yahoo has several subscription plans, including a \$14.95-a-month option that lets you rent an unlimited number of games.

Comcast's on-demand site, launched this summer, is almost identical to Yahoo's.

You have to download a similar application which serves as a portal to browse and play a varied selection of 118 games, ranging from first-person shooters like "Unreal Tournament" to simple puzzlers like "Operation."

Games which Comcast considers new include "Warlords: Battlecry II," a fantasy-themed strategy game. But calling such a title new is simply misleading — it's been out since May.

Newer, popular PC games were missing entirely.

Comcast's main game Web page showed a list of the current top PC games, but clicking on it redirected me to a list of shopping sites where I could buy the boxed product. Sigh.

I went ahead and rented "Warlords." The download process took about 10 minutes on my DSL connection, and I was up and gaming. The experience was similarly hassle-free with Yahoo.

I knew in advance which games would work because the game scanner my computer to make sure it had enough power to run the games. Yahoo does the same.

By contrast, Direct2Drive only lists the minimum system requirements you'd normally see on the side of the packaging.

I thought the scan was a nice convenience, though it might give pause to the security-conscious.

With a minimal investment,



AP photos

Above: A framegrab of the Comcast Web site where a user can download games to their computer for a monthly fee. **Bottom left:** IGN Entertainment's Direct2Drive Web site allows the user to purchase and download games to their computer.

Yahoo and Comcast have created an easy way to let you try out games before you buy.

Though I preferred Direct2Drive's more direct click-and-buy model, the meager

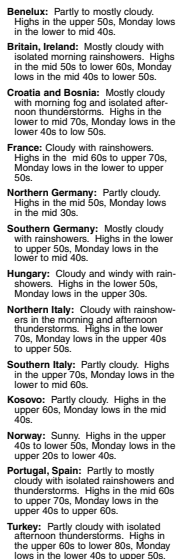
selection was disappointing.

But since the inventory also was lacking with Comcast and Yahoo, shoppers looking for the latest and greatest are better off buying the old-fashioned way.



FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY									
INDEXES									
52-wk Low	High	Low	High	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk Low	High	Low
10,753.31	9,497.77	Dow Jones Industrial	10,055.20	-17.30	-0.2	+3.51	10,753.31	9,497.77	Dow Jones Industrial
3,389.00	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,389.00	-5.87	-0.2	+10.94	3,389.00	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation
301.51	242.26	Dow Jones Utilities	301.51	-1.61	-0.5	+12.64	301.51	242.26	Dow Jones Utilities
6,798.12	5,812.25	NYSE Composite	6,798.12	-17.80	-0.3	+12.54	6,798.12	5,812.25	NYSE Composite
1,253.58	1,065.78	Russ 2000 Index	1,253.58	+6.76	+0.5	+26.30	1,253.58	1,065.78	Russ 2000 Index
2,153.84	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,153.84	-19.25	-0.9	+1.36	2,153.84	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite
1,162.33	1,018.32	S&P 500	1,162.33	-4.51	-0.4	+10.10	1,162.33	1,018.32	S&P 500
618.46	528.13	S&P MidCap	618.46	-5.94	-1.0	+10.58	618.46	528.13	S&P MidCap
696.42	563.88	Russell 2000	696.42	-5.75	-0.8	+3.37	696.42	563.88	Russell 2000
11,717.14	9,900.89	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,717.14	-18,964.52	-0.2	+1.53	11,717.14	9,900.89	DJ Wilshire 5000

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					
Name	High	Low	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
Aircraft Technology	40	37.06	-0.34	-0.9	+3.3
Airbus	40	41.53	+1.14	+2.8	+1.9
Airbus Holdings	39	38.28	-0.72	-1.9	+1.9
Boeing	39	37.48	-0.58	-1.5	+0.5
General Dynamics	39	46.79	+0.79	+1.7	+1.9
Lockheed Martin	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Northrop Grumman	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Raytheon	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Boeing	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Lockheed Martin	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Northrop Grumman	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Raytheon	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Boeing	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Lockheed Martin	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Northrop Grumman	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Raytheon	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Boeing	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
Lockheed Martin	38	37.14	-0.86	-2.3	+1.9
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Boeing					



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:03 AM	6:04 AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:39 AM	7:40 AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:37 PM	5:35 PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	6:46 PM	6:43 PM

	New moon	First quarter	Full moon	Fourth quarter
				

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.

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LEGEND

High	Low	Snow	Rain	Tornado	Hurricane	Thunder	Snow	Ice	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy
[Symbol]	[Symbol]	[Symbol]	[Symbol]	[Symbol]	[Symbol]	[Symbol]	[Symbol]	[Symbol]	[Symbol]	[Symbol]	[Symbol]

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US Spec

Earnhardt thinks penalty too severe

By MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. has some advice for NASCAR: rethink your penalty for drivers who curse on live broadcasts.

NASCAR had little choice in hitting Earnhardt Jr. with a fine of \$10,000 and the loss of 25 points after he cursed during a live NBC television interview following his victory last Sunday at Talladega.

Even though that's the same penalty the sanctioning organization meted out earlier this year to Busch Series drivers Johnny Sauter and Ron Hornaday, Earnhardt thinks that will change in the future.

"I told NASCAR that in my opinion, if not this time but the next time for the next guy, change the penalty," he said. "Make it \$100,000, \$200,000. Taking points off the scoreboard, whether it's fair or not, is not something I believe in."

The penalty left Earnhardt 12 points behind leader Kurt Busch entering Sunday's NASCAR Nextel Cup race at Kansas Speedway.

While Kyle Nemechek won the pole for the Banquet 400, his second pole in a row and the eighth of his career — Earnhardt qualified eighth before speaking out for the first time since NASCAR levied the penalties on Tuesday.

"I understand that it was a mistake," Earnhardt said. "It wasn't anything that I intentionally planned to say. I just think the punishment was a little bit more severe than the crime."

Viewers in nearly 7 million homes were able to hear Earnhardt use a vulgarity when he was asked about the significance of his fifth victory at Talladega.

His team has appealed the points portion of the penalty, but Earnhardt, racing for his first championship, said it has taught him a lesson.

"I just learned to control myself better," he said. "It's kind of difficult in those situations. It's really hard, actually — especially when you win a race like that. But that's the rules and, unfortunately, we've got to play by every one of them, not just a few."

In reaction to Earnhardt's slip of the tongue and in light of the FCC cracking down on objectionable content on radio and TV, both NBC and the Motor Racing Network, which airs most of the Cup races on radio, will now use delays on their live broadcasts.

Earnhardt's pole last week at Talladega was his first since October 2000, led Friday's qualifying with a lap of 180.156 mph.

"That's as close as you can be out of control and still have control of the race car," he said.

It's the first time Nemechek has won two straight poles.

Banquet 400 lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup
After Friday qualifying races Sunday
at Kansas City, Kan.
Lap length: 1.5 miles

- (1) Jeff Green, Chevrolet, 180.156 mph.
- (2) Kyle Nemechek, Chevrolet, 179.253.
- (13) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 179.188.
- (40) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 178.918.
- (16) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 178.853.
- (16) Greg Biffle, Ford, 178.453.
- (12) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 178.424.
- (14) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 178.388.
- (8) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 178.347.
- (16) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 178.347.
- (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 178.018.
- (18) Elliott Sadler, Ford, 178.006.
- (17) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 177.954.
- (17) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 177.918.
- (10) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 177.754.
- (17) Rusty Wallace, Chevrolet, 177.550.
- (30) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 177.549.
- (6) Mark Martin, Ford, 177.462.
- (5) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 177.462.
- (20) Todd Bodine, Dodge, 177.381.
- (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 177.375.
- (9) Kurt Busch, Ford, 177.225.
- (13) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 177.217.
- (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 177.131.
- (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 176.927.
- (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 176.794.
- (20) Jeff Green, Dodge, 176.638.
- (40) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 176.459.
- (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 176.396.
- (20) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 176.367.
- (13) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 176.367.
- (18) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 176.030.
- (1) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 175.970.
- (2) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 175.137.
- (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 174.933.
- (1) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 174.929.
- (5) Kyle Petty, Dodge, provisional.
- (1) Jerry Seinfeld, Chevrolet, provisional.
- (1) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet, provisional.
- (72) Kirk Shelmerdin, Ford, provisional.
- (42) Rusty Wallace, Ford, provisional.
- (40) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 174.402.
- (40) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 174.304.
- (40) Carl Long, Chevrolet, 173.920.
- (40) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 168.146.

Failed to qualify

- (75) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 174.002.
- (40) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 174.002.
- (40) Carl Long, Chevrolet, 173.920.
- (40) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 168.146.

Menard wins first Busch Series pole

By STEVE BRISENDINE
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Paul Menard won his first NASCAR Busch Series pole, edging Kasey Kahne by two-thirds of a second Friday at Kansas Speedway.

Menard took the pole for the Mr. Goodcents 300 with a top lap of 176.962 mph in a Chevrolet. Kahne — going for his third straight pole — drove his third round the 1½-mile tri-oval at 175.684.

"We just screwed up," said Kahne, who also qualified second for Sunday's Nextel Cup race. "We did something that made the car go slower."

Menard, whose best previous start was eighth in April at Talladega, won the pole in his eighth start in a car co-owned by Chance 2 Motorsports and Dale Earnhardt Inc.

"We definitely had all the tools there," Menard said. "It was just kind of up to [crew chief] Tony Gibson and myself to try to put all the pieces of the puzzle together."

Chevrolets took eight of the top 10 spots, with Kahne and David Stenard starting ninth in a Dodge — the only exceptions.

Robby Gordon and Kyle Busch will start on the second row Saturday, followed in the top 10 by Martin Truex Jr., Ron Hornaday, Blake Feese, Mike Bliss, Stremme and David Green.

Gordon missed a front-row start by .0002 of a second. He is driving the same car he took to his only Busch victory this season, last month in Richmond.

68 gives Donald lead in Dunhill Links Championship

The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Luke Donald scored a 4-under-par 68 Saturday at Carnoustie for a three-day total of 17-under 199, leaving him two strokes ahead of three others in the Dunhill Links Championship.

Ryder Cup teammates Ian Poulter and David Howell were among the trio at 201.

Poulter carded a 65 at Carnoustie, the most difficult of the three courses he played. Howell, the overnight leader, shot a 71 at Carnoustie.

They were joined by Graeme McDowell. The Northern Irish-

Golf roundup

man, who shot a record-equalling 10-under 62 on The Old Course on Thursday, followed it with a 72 Friday at Carnoustie and a 5-under 67 Saturday at Kingsbarns.

The final round Sunday was set for the Old Course.

Stephen Gallacher of Scotland was three strokes off the lead after the first round of the Old Course. Four others, including Ernie Els, were a further two strokes behind. Els shot 68 Saturday at Carnoustie.

Lawyers seek dismissal of BALCO case charges

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Defendants charged with distributing illegal steroids to some of the nation's best-known athletes were subjected to illegal searches and coerced by federal investigators, defense lawyers said Friday.

The four defendants are connected to BALCO, a nutritional supplement lab at the center of a scandal that has ripped through the ranks of the nation's professional and Olympic athletes.

Attorneys for two of the defendants said they will seek to dismiss the federal indictments against their clients. Friday was the deadline to file motions in the case.

Alleged leaks by government officials and misconduct by the lead investigator are sufficient grounds for dismissal, said the attorneys for the defendant, personal trainer Greg Anderson.

"It has come to the point now where so many leaks are continuing where our client can't even get a fair trial," attorney Anna Ling said. "Stuff that's even false is coming out."

Anderson was the trainer for San Francisco Giants left fielder Barry Bonds, who was among dozens of athletes called to testify before the grand jury in November and December of 2003.

A motion for dismissal also would be filed on behalf of Victor Conte, founder of Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, said one of his attorneys, Robert Holler. Such motions are common in criminal cases.

Conte, Anderson and two other men, BALCO vice president James Valente and track coach Remi Kocemany, are charged with distributing steroids, including the previously unnamed THG, to top athletes. Charges also include possession of human growth hormone, misbranding drugs with intent to defraud and money laundering.

All have pleaded not guilty.

Sharapova wins Japan Open

TOKYO — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova overpowered Mashona Owens 6-0, 6-1 on Saturday to win the Japan Open, her second straight year before a typhoon forced play to be suspended.

Jin Nivak's 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 semifi-

Sports briefs

nal victory over top-seeded Leyla Hewitt was suspended for 35 minutes because rain leaked through Ariake Colosseum's retractable roof. Novak will face American Taylor Dent in Sunday's final.

Winds of up to 100 mph, Typhoon Ma-on is the most powerful to hit the region in 10 years. Authorities forecast 10 inches of rainfall through Sunday.

U.S. takes center stage with Phelps on sideline

INDIANAPOLIS — Michael Phelps led the cheers at the World Short Course Championships and his American teammates responded in Phelps-like fashion.

Aaron Peirsol, Ian Crocker, Brendan Hansen and Haley Cope all won gold medals, and the men's 800-free relay team rallied in the final 25 meters to nudge Australia for the gold in the most exciting race of the meet's second day.

For the Americans, it was bittersweet. They won five of eight events but lost their best swimmer for the rest of the championships because of a back injury. One of the goals to match the six gold medals in the Athens Olympics ended abruptly.

He pulled out of the 400 individual medley in the morning session with a sore back and showed up Friday night intending to swim the 800 free relay. When two doctors advised him to withdraw, Phelps reluctantly agreed and announced he wouldn't race again in Indianapolis during the five-day event.

Earthquakes re-sign Chicago

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The San Jose Earthquakes re-signed forward Brian Ching to a multiyear contract Friday.

Ching is tied for first in Major League Soccer with 11 goals this year, and he also provided a spark for the U.S. national team during World Cup qualifying.

The Earthquakes selected Ching to replace a player in the MLS Dispersal Draft after making a trade with D.C. United to secure that draft position.

Levi, Hall lead seniors

SPRING, Texas — Wayne Levi matched his best round on the Champions Tour and Walter Hall matched his best on the Senior PGA Championship.

Neumann, the 1988 U.S. Women's Open champion, had 22 putts in the round and holed a bunker shot for birdie on the 14th hole on the Mount Vantage Plantation course. Neumann's score was a 68, and Morgan shot a 69.

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3-way tie for LPGA lead

NORTH AUGUSTA, S.C. — Laura Neumann matched her second straight 4-under 68 for a share of the second-round lead with Donna Andrews and Wales'

World No. 1 Vijay Singh had a 69 Saturday at Carnoustie, leaving him eight shots off the lead.

Padrraig Harrington and Thomas Bjorn failed to make the cut.

Levis leads in Vegas

LAS VEGAS — J.L. Lewis shot a 9-under 63 Friday to take the lead at 14 under midway through the Michelin Championship at Las Vegas.

On another windless day in the desert, the 44-year-old Lewis took a one-shot lead over Chez Reavie, Luke Donald and Alex Cejka in a round that included an eagle, six birdies and no bogeys on a friendly Bear's Best course.

Offseason tests Melo's maturity

Nuggets' Anthony says miserable Olympics helped changed his game

BY JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

DENVER — A disarming smile and skill with a basketball have always helped Carmelo Anthony smooth out the rough spots in his life. Not this summer.

With a bad experience at the Olympics and a scuffle at a bar, the game and character of the 20-year-old forward were called into question and that smile all but disappeared.

After a season in which the Denver Nuggets followed Anthony into the playoffs for the first time in nearly a decade, building on that success will hinge in large part on how their budding star reacts to a difficult offseason.

"I can't nobody have a great career without adversity," Anthony said. "Everybody has adversity. But it was good that I went through it at the beginning of my career instead of the middle."

Adversity is something Anthony hasn't seen much of on the basketball court.

He was a Parade All-American as a high school senior at Oak Hill Academy in Virginia and played in the McDonald's All-Star game.

Anthony went on to lead Syracuse to national championship as a freshman in 2003, then was selected by the Nuggets with the third overall pick.

He entered the league with plenty of hype and lived up to it, joining Cleveland's LeBron James to give the NBA arguably its best rookie duo since Larry Bird and Magic Johnson in 1979.

Anthony's charismatic smile seemed to be everywhere, from

promoting the league to selling video games. He was a star on the court, leading the Nuggets to the playoffs for the first time since 1995 and packing fans into the Pepsi Center. He led all rookies in scoring in 2003-04 but finished second to James in Rookie of the Year voting.

Filled with confidence, Anthony looked forward to representing his country in the Olympics. It didn't turn out the way he had hoped.

Anthony started things off by saying he wasn't interested in the Olympics if he was just going to sit on the bench. He later said he would accept an invitation regardless of playing time.

Then he guaranteed the United States would win gold in Athens — a brass prediction that was far from golden.

The Americans ended up with bronze and Anthony didn't have much of a part in getting it. He was called "selfish" by U.S. coach Larry Brown and spent most of the tournament watching his teammates struggle and holed up in his room.

Anthony didn't handle the situation well, complaining about playing time through the media and putting on the bench during the games — a contrast to his normally easygoing "Melo" persona.

"The fact that he had an experience to play for a Hall of Fame coach and a coach of the year (Gregg) Popovich, his basketball IQ got higher and I think he learned a lot about himself," Nuggets coach Jeff Bzdelick said. "Any time those kinds of things happen, it's a positive for everyone involved."



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, right, collides with rookie Melvin Sanders, left, during a scrimmage on Tuesday.

It wasn't the only problem he had this summer.

Attending a private party for rapper Swizz Beatz last month, Anthony was involved in a scuffle at a New York bar when someone spit a drink in the face of his friend, MTV host La La Vasquez.

Anthony said the incident was blown out of proportion, but it led to at least give the Nuggets pause for concern about the maturity of their star player. After all, it wasn't too long ago that he refused to go back into a game after teammates complained about his shot selection.

"You always try to turn a negative into a positive," Nuggets general manager Kiki Vandeweghe said. "He's a very mature young man and I think he's going to be fine."

Of course, the whole thing could work out in the Nuggets' favor.

Denver brought back most of the players from last year's playoff team and signed rugged All-Star forward Kenyon Martin. Adding a mature and inspired Anthony could make the Nuggets one of the best teams in the Western Conference, if not the league.

Then again, it all depends how Anthony bounces back from his sullen summer.

"I'm a new man right now," Anthony said. "I grew up a lot from the end of August until now, so you all are going to see a different Carmelo Anthony."

As for his teammates and coaches, no one seems worried about Anthony. If anything, most of them believe his troubles will do nothing but help.

"First adversity he had in his young career after everything went smooth for him in Denver as a rookie," Nuggets center Marcus Camby said. "It's good for him to have a couple bumps in the road."

Bryant accuser: 'Mom, I was raped'

BY JON SARCHÉ
The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — Kobe Bryant's accuser phoned her mother the day after the incident, begging her to come home from work. Later, the daughter revealed: "Mom, I was raped last night," according to unsealed documents.

The conversation, recounted by an investigator for Eagle County prosecutors, was released Friday. It is included in 625 pages of documents and case files being disclosed publicly. The criminal case against Bryant, 26, was dropped last month at the accuser's request.

"I could tell something was wrong. She kind of mumbled things and the way she walked in, her tone of voice," the mother said in a conversation with an unidentified interviewer in August 2003, little more than a month after the alleged attack at a Vail-area resort where Bryant was a guest and the woman was a friend.

"She didn't want to tell me anything at that time," the mother said. "I knew she would tell me when she was ready."

She recalled how her daughter, then 19, called her July 1, 2003.

"Mom, you need to come home. I need to talk to you," she said, according to the interview transcript from prosecutor attorney Gerry Sandberg. When she arrived, she said her daughter had been in bed crying and asked the teen what was wrong.

"Mom, I was raped last night," her daughter said, then told her mother it was Bryant.

The Los Angeles Lakers star had said the rape was consensual. Prosecutors dropped the felony sexual assault charge when the woman said she did not want to participate in a trial after a series of legal rulings against her and courthouse gaffes revealed her name on a state Web site.

In a Sept. 12, 2003, interview with Boulder County district attorney's investigator Tom Bennett, the woman said she didn't want to report the alleged attack.

Also included in the documents was a report from an investigator with the New Mexico attorney general's office, who helped with the case. She had talked with teenagers in Calgary, Alberta, where the alleged rape occurred several months after the alleged attack.

One of the teenagers, Kylie Robinson, said she felt the woman was not behaving like a rape victim.

"Kylie was very upset but (reduced) was a victim of a sexual assault because she seemed to make a joke of it and commented about money she was going to get from the trial," the investigator wrote.

Last month, Bryant's attorneys abruptly dropped a bid to permanently seal evidence in the case and the accuser's lawyer, who had extracted portions of her previous statements to investigators.

Rookie Whalen lifts Sun to lead in WNBA Finals

BY DONNA TOMMELLE
The Associated Press

UNSCVILLE, Conn. — The Connecticut Sun spent the first month of the WNBA season just trying to get to know each other. With five rookies and two offseason acquisitions, coach Mike Thibault had a team full of fresh faces.

The team has found some chemistry now and is starting to click.

Rookie guard Lindsay Whalen set a team playoff mark with nine assists and had 11 points, two steals and two blocked shots to lead the Sun to a 68-64 victory Friday night over the Seattle Storm in the opening game of the WNBA Finals.

"I think our team has felt all year that they had a chance to do this," Thibault said. "And inside our locker room that's all that counts."

Whalen helped shut down Storm star Sue Bird, who finished with six turnovers and had 12 points on 4-for-11 shooting.

"I think it took us time to gel and time to get to know ourselves on the court as well as off," Whalen said. "We know we're a good team, as long as we play the right way and share the ball we should be in position."

Game 2 is at Seattle on Sunday, and Game 3, if necessary, will also be there Tuesday.

Leslie wins 2nd MVP

UNSCVILLE, Conn. — Lisa Leslie was selected the WNBA's Most Valuable Player for the second time in her career.

The Los Angeles Sparks center, the league's MVP in 2001, received 425 points and 33 of a possible 48 first-place votes from a national media panel Friday. Seattle's Lauren Jackson, last season's MVP, was second with 351 points.

Leslie led the league in rebounds (9.9) and blocked shots (2.88) and finished third in scoring (17.6).

The Sparks finished with a league-best 25-9 regular-season record, but were eliminated from the playoffs by Sacramento in the first round.

— The Associated Press

Many of the 9,341 fans in the sellout crowd had watched Bird star at UConn, where she won two NCAA titles. She drew a deafening roar during introductions, but after the opening tip, the Sun took her out of her comfort zone.

"They forced us to do things that we were not necessarily wanting to do or used to do," Bird said. "More than anything I thought their transition killed us."

Whalen, who led Minnesota to its first Final Four appearance last season, kept the Sun's transition game in high gear. She also set the tone for the solid defense which kept Lauren Jackson, the league's leading scorer, in check for most of the night.

The Sun had a Finals-record 15 steals, blocked six shots and had just enough of a cushion to hold off Seattle's late rally from a 16-point deficit.

The Sun took advantage of their only home game in the best-of-three game series, drawing a raucous sellout crowd that included Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Roll.

Katie Douglas led Connecticut with 18 points on 6-for-11 shooting and made two free throws with 16 seconds left.

"This is such a huge game for our franchise and our team," Douglas said. "We're on a journey to do something special."

Betty Lennox had 17 points for Seattle, and Jackson finished with 16 — six in the closing minutes.

Coughlin ready to take on ex-boss Parcels

BY JAIME ARON

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Tom Coughlin made quite an impression on Bill Parcels during the three years they worked together with the New York Giants.

Put it this way: Parcels thinks so highly of his former assistant that after taking over the Cowboys, he let the recently unemployed Coughlin know his spot was always waiting for him in Dallas.

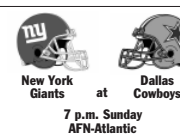
"Whatever he wanted to do, I would have done it," Parcels said. "I told him we could have a job as long as I'm alive."

Well, Coughlin is coming to work at Texas Stadium this Sunday, but it won't be for Parcels. He'll be against him, guiding the New York Giants as they try continuing their surprising early-season surge — one that's similar to the quick strides Dallas made last season under Parcels.

Parcels' reputation drew immediate respect from his players and led to immediate results. After an opening loss, the Cowboys won five straight, matching their win total from each of the previous three seasons, and he led them into the playoffs.

Coughlin missed out on the immediate respect part, instead getting grief for his whip-cracking ways. Three straight wins since losing the opener has changed that. It's hard to complain when you're winning, and the Giants need just one more to match last season's total.

Parcels isn't surprised — about



Game time is Central European.

Coughlin's strictness ("I knew Tom was going to come in and try to establish law and order," he said), the backlash or even the fast payoff.

"I got an e-mail from my younger brother ... [that] said, 'Could you imagine the nerve of that Tom Coughlin not wanting to be 4-12 again?' I thought that was pretty astute," Parcels said.

"Something has to change, you know, and sometimes the seas can be a little turbulent while there is change going on. And that's OK."

New York's newfound discipline is evident in turnovers. The Giants have the most takeaways in the NFL and among the fewest giveaways. Their differential of plus-10 is two better than anyone else.

The biggest key is Tiki Barber has yet to fumble and is the league leader in all-purpose yards and second in yards rushing.

He's done it with a new grip Coughlin taught him.

Protecting the ball is a staple of Coughlin's career. Only three teams have had more games than giveaways and Coughlin was with the 2002 Jaguars and the 1990 Giants, who were coached by Parcels.

Dallas (2-1) is coming off a by hoping to build on a two-game winning streak. Parcels coached the next four games, three at home, will show whether the Cowboys are ready for another playoff run.

The defense has played well since allowing Minnesota to throw for five touchdowns in the opener, but an inexperienced set of cornerbacks makes the secondary vulnerable. The offense has been riding the arm of Vinny Testaverde while waiting for a running game to develop. Parcels admits he's been impatient with it.

"He's always been one to take the strength from his team and build from there," Coughlin said. "It may not be the way you want to play, but that doesn't mean it's a surprise."

Parcels and Coughlin met the week of the 1988 Senior Bowl. They have similar backgrounds. Raised on the East Coast, they worked at small colleges (Parcels at Hastings College, Coughlin at Rochester Institute of Technology) before breaking into the NFL as position coaches.

Both are demanding and don't apologize for it.

"I think it is a matter of having the same

philosophy, the same thoughts and kind of having the same kind of motor and being anxious to correct everything you can see right on the spot," Coughlin said.

Coughlin was Parcels' receivers coach from 1988-90, with both leaving after a Super Bowl victory. Coughlin went to coach Boston College, then helped start the Jacksonville Jaguars.

In his second season, the Jags came within a game of the Super Bowl, losing to Parcels-coached New England.

Three years later, they were a win away from returning to the AFC championship until losing to the Parcels-coached Jets.

Jacksonville made it the next year, giving him two league championship appearances in the franchise's first six seasons.

"People just slough that off like it's nothing," Parcels said, his voice choked with admiration. "That's a tremendous job he did."

Jacksonville fired Coughlin about the same time Dallas hired Parcels. Coughlin sat out last season, but spent several days at Dallas' training camp. Since becoming division foes, they haven't spoken in months.

Parcels has a 3-1 advantage over Coughlin. Yet if Coughlin has any personal motivation, he hasn't shared it.

"I don't think it is one of those situations where he is saying, 'Oh, I have to go beat Mr. Parcels,' or anything like that," Giants defensive end Michael Strahan said. "I think he is excited because he wants us to win another game."

Steelers, Browns try to build on unexpected early success

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — They are so close their outlying suburbs nearly overlap, one-time industrial giants that once enjoyed better days economically, but whose never-give-up images — and, sometimes, their greatest hopes — are reflected in their football team.

Singularly, they produced some of the NFL's biggest names: Jim Brown and Paul Brown for the aptly named Browns, Terry Bradshaw and Joe Greene for the Steelers. Together, they form a rivalry that extends over a half-century.

Sometimes it seems the two Rust Belt rivals are one, and not just because Pittsburgh is nearly bankrupt and Cleveland was designated by the U.S. Census Bureau as the nation's poorest big city. Chuck Noll, who coached the Steelers to four Super Bowl victories, is from Cleveland. Steelers coach Bill Cowher began his NFL career with the Browns. Former Browns coach Nick Skoric, who died only days ago, broke into the NFL with the Steelers.

Tradition holds true again Sunday as the Browns (2-2) and Steelers (3-1), each trying to shake free from bad times with an unexpected good start, play an AFC North game that is very important for so early in the season.

The Browns can get their much-needed first road victory, moving 500 yards from their first win in 22 months and the first-place Pittsburgh. The Steelers can go to 4-1 for only the third time in 22



Game time is Central European.

seasons and retain their surprising division lead.

Browns-Steelers in a potentially big game, just one season after the two combined for only 11 victories? Seems like old times.

"We've got an opportunity to put ourselves in a great position to make a playoff run and to separate ourselves from the division," Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward said.

"It's a big one for us — it's the Steelers," Browns right tackle Ryan Tucker said.

The Steelers didn't expect to be in such a favorable position with their bye week still two weeks away, especially with Ben Roethlisberger now running the offense. Roethlisberger could become only the sixth rookie quarterback since the 1970 NFL merger to win his first three starts — a list headed by Pittsburgh's Mike Kruczek, who went 6-0 in 1976.

But while Kruczek did better than hand off to twin 1,000-yard running backs Franco Harris and Rocky Bleier, failing to throw a single touchdown pass all season, Roethlisberger is being asked to do much more.

"But they're not ready yet to put the game in his hands."

They're going to go out there and try to do some things to keep the game simple for him," Browns safety Earl Little said.

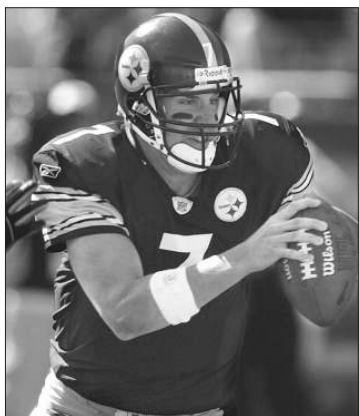
Maybe not this week — the rebuilt Steelers running game led by Duce Staley, who has 224 yards in his last two starts, must go against a Browns run defense that limited Baltimore's Jamal Lewis to 57 yards and Washington's Clinton Portis to 58 yards. If the Browns similarly contain Stanley and Jerome Bettis, who has five touchdowns rushing as a short-yardage back, it will place a greater burden on Roethlisberger to do more.

"The more practice, the more reps, the more plays I get, the more comfortable I am on Sundays," Roethlisberger said.

Surprisingly, the more-experienced Jeff Garcia, a three-time Pro Bowl player with the 49ers, has looked more unfamiliar and uncomfortable with his offense than Roethlisberger has. The Browns quarterback hasn't been awful, throwing three touchdown passes and leading a fourth-down comeback victory against the Redskins. But Cleveland's offense has yet to score a touchdown in the first half and has only three points in the first quarter, a slow-to-start scenario that hasn't played well in two road losses.

Just as with Pittsburgh, much of Cleveland's offense has been supplied by multiple running backs. William Green (225 yards, 3.8 average) got most of the carries in the first three games, but Lee Suggs ran for 82 yards and a touchdown against Washington.

Asked about Garcia, Browns coach Butch Davis almost sounds as if he could be talking about Roethlisberger rather than a



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger could become just the sixth rookie in NFL history to win his first three starts.

34-year-old quarterback with 11 years NFL and Canadian Football League experience.

"He is learning the offense, the terminology and all that stuff that is different than he has been running (in San Francisco)," Davis said.

Just as with Pittsburgh, much of Cleveland's offense has been supplied by multiple running backs. William Green (225 yards, 3.8 average) got most of the carries in the first three games, but Lee Suggs ran for 82 yards and a touchdown against Washington.

There go the Browns and Steelers, copying each other again.

"I heard about this rivalry growing up, but I never liked the Browns," said Roethlisberger, who grew up about two hours away from Cleveland in Findlay, Ohio.

While the cities and their passionate fans are very much alive, there's not much love between the two teams.

"We know they're going to call us every name in the bad word book, so we're looking forward to it," Little said.

Seattle looking to reach 4-0 for first time

Seahawks fear Rams' defense despite luring away Wistrom

By TIM KORTE

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Say what you want about Grant Wistrom's big free agency deal. The Seattle Seahawks believe he's earning his paycheck. And this week, the team figures to get back part of the bonus.

Nobody on Seattle's side has to block him.

The high-energy defensive end switched teams in what is becoming one of the NFL's freshest rivalries. Wistrom left St. Louis for a \$14 million bonus.

"We always had to account for Grant and he gave us the same sort of problems he creates now for other teams," Seattle coach Mike Holmgren said. "He's just a good player and I'm glad he's on our side now."

If Holmgren is happy now, he could be ecstatic by Sunday night.

A victory would make the Seahawks (3-0) unbeaten through four games for the first time ever, ending Seattle's losing streak of seven games to 11 games and open an early but comfortable 2½-game lead in the NFC West.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves, not with the Rams (2-2) recovering after a slow start.

Holmgren thinks the St. Louis defense remains formidable, even without Wistrom. The Rams have been slowed by injuries, but still have Leonard Little, Adam Archuleta and Aeneas Williams.



St. Louis' Tommy Polley jars the ball loose from 49ers quarterback Tim Rattay during the Rams' 24-14 win.

"It's still a great defense even without Grant," Seattle guard Steve Hutchinson said. "They're a good unit. They play really good team defense."

And the offense? Marshall Faulk is coming off his 40th career 100-yard rushing game in last week's 24-14 victory at San Francisco, when Rams coach Mike Martz embraced what for him seemed an extraordinary run-first approach.

"I don't know why that's such an issue," Martz said. "I've always been pragmatic. I get in a game and I have an idea about what we want to do. If things don't turn out well in an area, you change gears and move."

The offensive line, though, is

coming together. Even better, Faulk catches an occasional breather—even if defenses don't—because of promising rookie Steven Jackson.

"Anybody who thinks Marshall Faulk has lost a step isn't watching the same football," Wistrom said. "He looks as quick as ever and now he's got another running back who can come in and spell him, something he hasn't really been afforded since he's been in St. Louis."

Marc Bulger still has Isaac Bruce and Torry Holt running patterns. Orlando Pace is still taking up plenty of room at left tackle. In fact, he'll match up with Wistrom for the first time at game speed.

"They are a powerful offensive football team," Holmgren said. "They have been and they are very, very capable still of lighting things up."

Can the same be said of the Seahawks? Seattle, off last week, was a 34-0 winner over the 49ers in a game in which the defense dominated. Sure, the Seahawks put up a lot of points, but there are still questions about when they'll hit stride offensively.

"We can achieve more. We can put up 45 points if we really let the dogs loose," said receiver Koren Robinson, who acknowledged that kind of scoring effort won't be easy this week.

The defense, on the other hand, has been marvelous.



10 p.m. Sunday
AFN-Atlantic

Game time is Central European.

Seattle has allowed only 13 points in three games and held San Francisco scoreless for the first time since 1977. The Seahawks forced four turnovers, and no opponent has reached the end zone since the opener.

Martz said Seattle has one of the best-coached defenses in the league. He emphasized it's not built on "fancy schemes and tricks."

"I'm talking about guys who are well-coached in fundamentals," Martz said. "They play with a great attitude. You don't see them out of position. They get to the ball in a hurry and they get there in a bad mood."

The Seahawks have become tough to beat at home. One New England's 13-game home streak is longer than Seattle's 10-game run. A key chapter occurred last year when the Rams visited.

There was a sentimental tone when Seattle's Shaun Alexander arrived late after attending the birth of his daughter. The ending was a genuine thrill, though, with Matt Hasselbeck leading a late TD drive for a 24-23 victory.

"That was the start of a great home-field advantage for us last year," Holmgren said. "The fact we could win a close game at the end against a really good team, the fans should feel they had a lot to do with it. They did."

Peterson, No. 2 Sooners run over No 5. Longhorns

By JAIME ARON

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Adrian Peterson decided to go to Oklahoma instead of Texas partly because of the way the Sooners always handle the Longhorns.

This time, he was the reason for it.

In only his fifth college game, Peterson ran for 225 yards and made many big plays when No. 2 Oklahoma needed it most, helping the Sooners grind out a 12-0 victory over No. 5 Texas and stretch their winning streak in the storied rivalry to five straight.

The Longhorns (4-1, 1-1 Big 12) avoided getting blown out, but still suffered stinging embarrassment — getting shut out for the first time in 282 games, ending the longest streak in the country.

With Peterson had his way with the Texas defense, the unit kept the Sooners (5-0, 2-0) out of the end zone until Kejuan Jones

scored on a 6-yard run with 8:07 left.

Peterson didn't score, but he went a long way toward setting up that touchdown and Trey DiCarlo's two field goals.

Showing the speed to get around the end of the line and the size to keep from going down, Peterson had bursts of 44, 26, 19, 17 and 15 yards, enabling the Sooners to wear down the Longhorns by holding the ball for more than 36 minutes.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops gave Peterson only five carries in the first five drives. The game turned once Stoops decided to start riding the player widely considered the nation's best high school running back last fall.

With the Sooners starting from their 12, Peterson got them deep into Texas territory by running on seven of eight plays. He finished the drive with nine carries and Oklahoma wound up leading 3-0 going into halftime.

OU's first drive of the second half also ended with a short field goal. Peterson carried on six of the nine snaps, with gains of 11 and 17.

Although Jones got the start, Peterson showed what he could do on his second carry — a 44-yard burst from the OU 4. He had runs of 19 and nine on the drive that ended with Jones' touchdown, sealing Oklahoma's longest streak in the series since also winning five straight from 1971-75.

Peterson personally outgained all four of Texas' previous foes this season en route to becoming the first Oklahoma player to crack 100 yards in each of his first five games. And, remember, his predecessors include three Heisman Trophy-winning running backs.

He hit 100 about five minutes before halftime against a Texas defense that was revamped after allowing 65 points to the Sooners last October.



Oklahoma RB Adrian Peterson (28) slips away from Texas defensive end Brian Robison during the second quarter in Dallas on Saturday.

High school scoreboard

Volleyball

Boys
(Saturday at Viena)
Viena def. Livorno 25-15, 25-15, 25-15.
Viena def. Milan 27-25, 25-14, 13-25, 25-16.
Milan def. Livorno 25-15, 25-16, 25-10.
(Sunday at Naples)
Naples def. Margum 25-15, 25-9, 27-25.
Naples def. Brian Vann of Naples post-ed 13 service points.
Sionella def. Margum 18-25, 25-21, 25-18.

(Sunday at Viena)
Naples def. Sionella 25-22, 25-16, 25-19.
Naples def. American Overseas School of Rome 3-0 (game scores unavailable).
Girls
(Saturday at Merwin Hill)
London Central def. Merwin Hill 25-12, 25-15, 25-5.
(Sunday at Viena)
Naples def. London Central 4-1 (got 11 kills and 4 assists from Kelley Anderson, 4 kills and a block by Anna Rodriguez, 3 kills and a block by Stephanie Anderson and 4 assists and 4 assists from Mica Gallaway).
Merwin Hill JV def. Naples 25-15, 25-12, 25-21.

(Sunday at Viena)
Viena def. Livorno 25-11, 25-16, 25-15.
Naples def. Viena 25-15, 25-16, 25-15.
Naples def. Viena 25-15, 25-16, 25-15.
Naples def. Viena 25-15, 25-16, 25-15.
Milan def. Livorno 30-28, 25-14, 21-25, 25-12.
Milan def. Livorno 25-14, 25-20, 25-10.

(Saturday at Naples)
Naples def. Margum 25-11, 25-18, 25-22.
Sionella def. Naples 13-25, 25-11, 25-21, 25-11.
(Saturday at Viena)
Naples def. American Overseas School of Rome 25-12, 25-10, 25-12.

(Sunday at Heidelberg)
Heidelberg def. Baumholder 25-9, 25-11, 25-13.
Heidelberg def. Wiesbaden 25-12, 25-14, 25-16.
Wiesbaden def. Baumholder 17-25, 25-23, 25-12, 25-17.
Heidelberg JV def. Baumholder JV 25-6, 25-19, 25-23.
Heidelberg JV def. Wiesbaden JV 25-25, 25-10, 25-14.

(Sunday at Heidelberg)
Heidelberg def. Heidelberg (7-2 in 4-1) received 23 kills from Natasha Holm, 20 kills and 10 assists by Julia Robinson, and 40 assists from Jessica Palaschak, according to Lady Lions coach Kirk Bernett.
(Saturday at Naples)
Hanau def. Giessen 25-12, 25-16, 25-12, 25-13.
Patch def. Giessen 25-12, 25-16, 25-16.

Networthy—Kays's Lailu had 19 service points. Heather Hall 13 service points and 9 kills. Erin Hopkins 10 kills and 9 blocks and Nicole Anderson 5 kills and 6 blocks for Patch.
Patch def. Hanau 25-12, 25-15, 25-12, 25-16.
Networthy—Lailu registered 13 service points and 11 kills. Hall had 7 service points and 11 assists. Hopkins notched 7 service points, 7 kills and 3 blocks, and Anderson made 7 kills and 4 blocks as Patch improved to 6-4.

(Saturday at Vilsack)
Vilsack def. SHAPE 20-25, 26-24, 25-13.
Vilsack def. SHAPE 20-25, 26-24, 25-13.
SHAPE def. Ansbach 25-18, 26-24, 26-24.
Black Forest Academy def. Ansbach 11-25, 26-25, 29-27, 25-16, 15-10.
Vilsack def. BFA 15-25, 26-24, 25-15, 25-11, 25-11.

(Saturday at Mannheim)
Bittburg def. Mannheim 25-12, 25-14, 25-15.
Mannheim def. Kaiserslautern 25-22, 25-15, 12-25, 25-15.
Bittburg def. Mannheim 25-11, 25-12, 25-13.
Kaiserslautern def. Mannheim 25-10, 25-20, 25-15, 25-18.
Mannheim JV def. Bittburg JV 25-10, 25-10, 25-10.
Kaiserslautern JV def. Mannheim JV 12-25, 25-19, 15-11.

(Sunday at Viena)
Kaiserslautern def. VfB 25-11, 25-18, 25-14.
Bittburg JV def. VfB 25-12, 25-13, 25-12.
Tennis
Brussels at AFNORTH (Friday)
AFNORTH boys 5, Brussels 2
Adrien Nieto (AFN) def. Dylan Deverli 8-6; Phil Lillard (AFN) def. Mike Zuo 8-6; Nemanja Ivanovic (AFN) def. Andrej Gagnon 8-6; Nick Bottelsen (Brus) def. Fred Larsen 8-6; Stefan Ivanovic (AFN) def. Brandon Webb 8-6; John Allen (AFN) def. Steve Herway 8-6 (7-3); Lillard and N. Ivanovic def. Zuo and Gagnon 8-6; Deverli and Bottelsen def. Nieto and Larsen 8-6.

Brussels girls 5, AFNORTH 0
Anastasia Lovaski def. Kaitlyn Ward 8-6; Jennifer Holloway def. Katy Huxton 8-6; Buse Guner def. Crystal Steinmetz 8-6; Marianna Fitch def. Erica Everingham 8-6; Whitney Hennes def. Elizabeth Scott 8-6; Kristine Vaska def. Maria Lucy 8-6; Lovaski and Guner def. Ward and Everingham 8-6; Holloway and Fitch def. Merz and Scott on Steffenhof 8-6; Sandra Pitik and Christine Exner def. Scott and Erica Everingham 8-6.

Iceland at Alconbury (Friday; some first names unavailable)
Alconbury boys 5, Iceland 1
David Smith (Alc) def. Dan Duperle 6-0, 6-4; Christian Fleck (Alc) def. Travis Ajpling 6-1, 6-0; Max Beuning (Alc) def. Michael Sexton 8-6; Matt Christensen (Alc) def. Nathan Stebbins 8-6; Xavier Ferguson (Alc) def. Asher Barzaga 8-6; Hissar Aguilar (Alc) def. Lyndon Bacon 8-6; Schiller and Reuning def. Slegler and Stebbins 6-1; Christensen and Felix def. Sexton and Ajpling 8-6; Bacon and Ferguson def. B. Cuwell and Ajpling 8-6.

Alconbury girls 5, Iceland 1
Marianna Vertuzed (Alc) def. Candice Anderson 8-6; Meghan Archer def. Charlotte Daniels 6-0; Nikita Webb (Alc) def. Suzannah Edwards 8-6; Archer and Vertuzed def. Ajpling and Daniels 6-0, 6-3.
London Central vs. Vilsack (Saturday at Alconbury)
London Central boys 7, Iceland 2
Rob McCure (LC) def. Stebbins 6-1; Levi Porter (LC) def. Ajpling 8-6; Seth Villareal (LC) def. Sexton 8-6; Stebbins def. Dan Duperle 8-6; Joseph Villareal (LC) Aguilar 8-6; Villareal and Porter def. Slegler and Stebbins 6-1, 6-1; Ajpling and Sexton def. McCure and Duperle 8-6.

London Central girls 7, Iceland 2
Tiffany Romero (LC) def. Ajpling 2-6, 6-2, 6-0; Kendall Gill (LC) def. Daniels 6-1; Portia Phillips (LC) def. Edwards 8-6; Romero and Gill def. Edwards and Daniels 8-6.
Patch at Bamberg (Saturday at Alconbury)
Patch boys 5, Bamberg 1
Dylan Baker (Bamb) def. Sean Tyson 6-7 (5-4), 6-4; Zach Meringer (Patch) def. Jozef Gonzalez and Baker 7-6 (7-4), 6-4.

Patch girls 5, Bamberg 4
Michelle Whitebeck (Patch) def. Laura Montoya 6-2, 6-2; Tamara Engert (Bamb) def. Laura Montoya 6-2; Rachel Grogan (Patch) def. Britanny Lipka 8-6; Rachel Grogan (Bamb) def. Lauren Duke 8-6; Kim Veronigoude (Patch) def. Ashlee Cose 8-6; Whitebeck and Grogan def. Montoya and Engels 6-1, 6-3; Grogan and Rember def. Lipka and Grogan 9-7.

SHAPE vs. Vilsack (Saturday at Vilsack)
Shape boys 4, Vilsack 2
Andrew Hawkins (SHA) def. Byron Schaffer 8-6, 6-2; Dimitri Palaschak (SHA) def. James Johnson 8-6; Phillip Raditsas (SHA) def. James Johnson 8-6; John Leon (Vil) def. Johnny McArthur 8-6; Palaschak and Raditsas (SHA) def. Schaffer and James Johnson 6-3, 6-6; Jacob Johnson and Leon (Vilsack) def. Hawkins and McArthur 4-6.

Valentina Baroni (SHA) def. Jeannette Cortez 6-0, 6-2; Kyla Fromme (SHA) def. Sarah Klein 8-6; Alan Zalowska (SHA) def. Ashley Fry 8-6; Alexandra Vacaru (SHA) def. Camille Romero 8-6; Diana Johnson (SHA) def. Ashley Fry 8-6; Ashley Fry (SHA) def. Jennifer Hall 8-6; Fromme and Vacaru def. Romero and Johnson (Vil) 6-2, 7-5; Romero and Johnson (Vil) def. Vacaru and Fry 8-6; Ashley Fry (SHA) def. Brejlo and P. Bertomeu (SHA) def. Huaco and Jennifer Clark 9-7.

Heidelberg boys 5, Kaiserslautern (Friday at Heidelberg)
Michael Sanchez def. Greg Thompson 6-0, 6-1; Sam Pohl def. Alayn Dierend 8-6; Kevin Ingahen def. Aaron Brown 8-6; Blair Martin def. Brandon Smith 8-6; Sanchez and Ingahen def. Dierend and Brown 8-6, 6-1; Pohl and Martin def. Thompson and Brook Smith 8-6.
Heidelberg girls 5, Kaiserslautern 0
Molly King def. Miranda Smith 6-1, 6-3; Stephanie Best def. Jessica Gofforth 8-6; Christina Stalk def. Dupe Dadutunde 8-6; Padina Ryan def. Eryn Marties 8-6; Karen Griffith def. Abby Hiplon 8-6; Amanda Gallaway def. Ashley Encio 8-6; Stalk and Ryan def. Smith and Gofforth 4-6, 6-3, 7-6; King and Best def. Dadutunde and Marties 8-6; Griffith and Gallaway def. Hiplon and Encio 8-6.

Mannheim vs. Ramstein (Saturday at Mannheim)
Ramstein boys 5, Mannheim 0
Ryan Vandernack def. Chris Modica 6-0, 6-1; Andrew Bryant def. Mike Adams 8-6; Matt Luthman def. Adam Pauley 8-6; M. J. Massicotte def. Kevin Nicklas 8-6; Matt Pauley def. Minho Kim 8-6; Matt Omea and Luthman def. Modica and Adams 6-0, 6-1; Vandernack and Massicotte def. Pauley and Nicklas 8-6.

Ramstein girls 5, Mannheim 0
Maggie curly def. Voigtshtroum 8-6; Megan Jones def. Dariusz Wewaly 8-6; Ashleigh Kriehling-Fleming def. Sarah Griggs 8-6; Brittany Gwynn def. Morgan Chavaria 8-6; Kristina Smith def. Annaliese Johnson 8-6; Anna Massicotte and Gwynn def. Voigtshtroum and Johnson 8-6; Kriehling-Fleming and Smith def. Griggs and Jenica Gotcher 8-6.

ISB vs. Billberg (Saturday at Billberg)
Jon Koide def. John Pendergrass 6-2, 7-5; Nicklas Sengens def. Erik Mart 8-6; Ken Koide def. Jose Tovar 8-6; Alex Roney def. Zach Hest 8-6; Matthew Bergert def. Josh Day 8-6; Richard Woodruff def. Raynor Bock 8-6; Koide and Sengens def. Pendergrass and Mart 7-5, 6-1; Roney and Gabriel Perez def. Day and Bergert 8-6; Oliver Vitell and Woodruff def. Tovar and Hest 8-6.

ISB girls 5, Billberg 1
Priscilla Bayley (ISB) def. Ashley Weston 6-0, 6-2; Paula Glover (ISB) def. Ashley Fry 8-6; Paula Glover (ISB) def. Kate Sims 9-8, 8-6.

(7-5); Yuna Shibata (ISB) def. Dani Goffin 8-6; Grace Johnson (ISB) def. Caitlin Schwab 8-6; Ashley Weston 8-6; Roney and Fisher 6-1, 6-1; Shibata and Johnson def. Goffin and Weston 8-6; Roney and Sims def. Goffin and Schwartz 8-6.

Cross country

(Saturday; all races 5,000 meters)

Milan at Viena (No team scoring)

Boys
1. Ian Falconer (Mil) 26:19, 2; Joe Orrechio (Mil) 25:30.

Girls
1. Sabrina Rossi (Mil) 26:19, 2; Arianna Simpson (Mil) 26:32, 3; Gabriella Pizzo (Mil) 29:08, 4; Megan Gifford (Vil) 29:25.

Naples triangular

Boys
Team scoring—Margum 23, Naples 32, Sionella was incomplete.
1. Sean Walter (Nap) 17:38, 2; Keegan Trott (Mint) 17:39, 3; Brian Bioneu (Nap) 18:34, 4; Marco Monusco (Mint) 18:46, 5; Jarrett-Cook Newby (Nap) 19:15, 6; Alan Gonzalez (Nap) 19:20, 7; Nicholas Zani (Mint) 19:21, 8; Dane Roberts (Sip) 19:21, 9; Jacopo Giannini (Nap) 19:55, 10; Bernard Oviero (Sip) 21:17.

Girls
Team scoring—Naples 20, Sionella 35, Margum was incomplete.
1. Zaira Zucchi (Nap) 20:09, 2; Alysson Cazzola (Nap) 22:14, 3; Kerry Grogan (Nap) 22:21, 4; Samantha Bion (Sip) 22:16, 5; Christa Der-Dolan (Nap) 22:24, 6; Megan Trott (Mint) 23:07, 7; Lachelle Mianes (Sip) 25:26, 8; Heather Abiloff (Sip) 25:35, 9; Estelle Chever (Mint) 25:36, 10; Antonette Mallory (Sip) 25:47.

AOSB at Viena

Team scoring—Avalio 52, American Overseas School of Rome 35.
1. Ryan Hudson (Aval) 17:32, 2; Josh Kneeland (AOSR) 18:30, 3; Zach Bradt (Aval) 19:16, 4; Steven Hudson (Aval) 19:15, 5; Eric Robertson (Aval) 19:42, 6; Rob Michalski (AOSR) 19:55, 7; Chris Hagini (AOSR) 20:18, 8; David Grossa (AOSR) 20:34, 9; Joe Castagnari (Aval) 20:45, 10; Elias McQuinn (Aval) 20:54.

Team scoring—Avalio 15, AOSR was incomplete.
1. Octavia Binehardt (Aval) 22:06, 2; Ashley Lynch (Aval) 22:35, 3; Kaitlyn Vogt (Aval) 22:36, 4; Bianca Bion (Aval) 23:31, 5; Meghan Hather (Aval) 23:56, 6; Erin Gage (Aval) 24:30, 7; Brittany Buckingham (Aval) 24:56, 8; Stephanie Ambrosy (AOSR) 24:46, 9; Kim Perry (Aval) 23:35, 10; Caitlyn Givins (Aval) 25:55.

SEE SCOREBOARD ON PAGE 45

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Second-half spurt pushes Ansbach to 20th straight

Stars and Stripes

James Esters and Dameron Outley each rushed for third-quarter touchdowns Saturday as Division III Ansbach rolled to its 20th straight victory, 22-3 over visiting Vilseck of Division II.

Vilseck (1-3) had taken a 3-0 lead just before halftime on Steve Tracy's 20-yard field goal.

"Going in trailing at the half was a new experience for our players," AFNORTH assistant Mick Plummer said by telephone on Saturday. "But Marcus (head coach George) talked to them about how you react to adversity is what defines a champion."

Ansbach's reaction came in an 80-yard scoring drive to open the third quarter that culminated in a 5-yard TD run by Esters. Esters then ran in for two points to give the Cougars an 8-3 lead.

After the Cougars defense stopped Vilseck, Ansbach (4-0) found itself pinned deep in its own end of the field. Outley burst up the middle for a 69-yard TD, and Esters (21 carries, 96 yards) tackled on another two-pointer.

The Cougars put the game away with two minutes to play with a 5-yard TD pass from Brandon Bachtel to Tauran Moore.

Outley, who led Ansbach with 13 tackles, finished with 110 yards on eight carries.

Division III football

"It was a really tough ballgame," Plummer said. "We're very pleased with the way our kids reacted."

In other games on Saturday:

Menwith Hill 49, Rota 7: At Menwith Hill, England, Menwith Hill turned Saturday's Division III-A showdown with Rota into a shockdown with a title-clinching victory.

Freshman running back Le-Shawn Adams carried 10 times for 160 yards and four TDs as the Mustangs (4-0 overall and 2-0 in III-A) advanced to the Division III playoffs for the first time.

Mike Bailey added 102 yards and two TDs on 13 carries. Bailey also made 13 tackles.

Rota (2-2, 0-1) got its only TD on a 12-yard run by Joe Casey.

Baumholder 19, AFNORTH 9: At Brunnsum, Netherlands, Ron James returned a pass interception 76 yards for a touchdown, and Antonio Muzon and Tyrrik Bayne added TD runs as the Bucs (3-1) claimed the showdown between Division III playoff contenders.

AFNORTH (2-2) opened the scoring on Mike Kincaid's 37-yard first-quarter field goal.

Muzon, who carried 16 times for 90 yards, scored on a 17-yard run at the 8:35 mark of the second quarter to give the Bucs a 12-3 halftime lead, and Bayne scored on a 25-yard TD run with 2:15 remaining.

Brad Lane's PAT made it 19-3, but AFNORTH closed to 19-9 with 1:25 to play on a 60-yard scoring pass from Bryant Blankenship to senior Emmanuel Waters.

Waters' younger brother, Jarred, carried 18 times for 75 yards.

"It was a wonderful defensive battle," Baumholder coach Carter Hollenbeck said. "We worked hard on stopping Waters. That was our focus."

London Central 35, Brussels 20: At London, Ray-Ray Berges rushed for six times for 136 yards and two touchdowns as the Bobcats of Division II turned back the Brigands of Division III.

Berges amassed his total in less than two quarters.

London Central (2-2) also got two rushing TDs from Colin Linberger and one from Mikhail Webb.

Mike Hebing threw a pair of TD passes for Brussels, a 40-yarder to Ryan Prietto and 22-yarder to Logan Quinn.

Matt Parker ran for the other score for Brussels (1-3).

AFNORTH defeats K-town



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Kaiserslautern's Dekia Moore, foreground, spikes the ball past AFNORTH's Rosanna Guzman during a DODDS high school volleyball match in Mannheim, Germany, on Saturday. AFNORTH won the match, 25-10, 25-20, 15-25 and 25-18.

Vanderlind's last-second TD lifts ISB over Bitburg

Stars and Stripes

Andrew Vanderlind's diving catch in the end zone on the final play of the game lifted International School of Brussels to a 12-7 victory over visiting Bitburg to clinch the Division II-North crown.

Vanderlind's fifth reception of the game from quarterback Phillip Lippman capped an improbable drive. It began after the Barons (2-2 overall and 1-2 in Division II-North) had taken a 7-6 lead with 19 seconds left in the game on an 11-yard pass from Trey Wilson to Brandon Morales and Zach Whitney's PAT kick.

Lippman answered with three straight completions, the first to Drew Thigpen and the final two to Vanderlind, the first a 12-yarder which carried to the Bitburg 30 and the second the game-winner from there as the gun sounded.

Lippman was 6-for-7 passing for 84 yards. He rushed 18 times for 128 yards and scored the first TD of the game for ISB (4-0, 4-0) on a 6-yard run.

Bobby Hernandez carried 23 times for 137 yards for Bitburg.

In other Division II conference games on Saturday:

SHAPE 36, Mannheim 0: At Mannheim, Germany, Steve Small and Richard Rendon each

Division II football

rushed for two TDs as the Spartans (3-1, 2-1) rebounded from the previous week's home loss to ISB.

Danny Camarena led the Spartans' ground game with 105 yards on 14 carries, and quarterback Sean Corcoran threw a TD pass of 28 yards to Zach Ragbier for SHAPE.

Mannheim (0-4, 0-3), which got 13 tackles from Josh Cameron, closes its regular season at Bitburg in a must-win game to stay alive for the playoffs which begin the following weekend.

Naples 30, Hanau 10: At Naples, Italy, Charles Cleveland carried 26 times for 152 yards and caught a touchdown pass as Naples (3-1, 2-1) took control of the II-South race.

The Wildcats got a pair of TD runs from Austin Webb before Webb left the game with an injury in the first quarter.

Fullback "Que" Roshell added a 1-yard TD run for Naples, which also got a 37-yard field goal from Tyler White.

Hanau (2-2, 2-1) was led by Malcolm Lane's 121 yards on 11 carries. Lane left the game with a third-quarter injury.



SHAPE quarterback Sean Corcoran, right, is tackled by Mannheim's Ryan Smith on Saturday. SHAPE defeated Mannheim 36-0 and improved to 3-1.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

"When [Lane] went down, it changed the complexion of the game," Naples coach Jim Hall said.

Aaron Ellison rushed for 111 yards on 18 attempts for Hanau.

Patch 32, Aviano 27: At Aviano, Italy, David Kennedy car-

rried 23 times for 157 yards, and quarterback T.D. Lindsay rushed for 109 yards and passed for 81, including a 48-yard TD pass to Neil Griffin as the Panthers won their second straight and finished their II-South schedule at 2-2.

Aviano (1-3 overall, 1-2 in

II-South) got a pair of TD passes and a touchdown run from quarterback Sean Daniels.

Daniels hit Jordan Kelsey with a 23-yard TD pass and Carl Cephas with a 31-yarder. He also ran a score in from two yards out.

Jacques Watson ran 7 yards for the other Aviano TD.

Twins in trouble as Brown, Yankees roll



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, left, leaps to avoid the Minnesota Twins' Shannon Stewart as he turns a double play Friday in Game 3 of the AL Division Series in Minneapolis. The Yankees won 8-4.

N.Y. looks strong in taking 2-1 series lead

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The New York Yankees shrugged off another Game 1 defeat. Kevin Brown did the same with his back pain and that embarrassing broken hand.

Showing remarkable post-season poise, the Yankees are on the brink of another first-round victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Backed by Derek Jeter's three RBIs and a relentless offense, Brown threw six strong innings to lead the Yankees past the frustrated Twins 8-4 on Friday night for a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five AL playoff series.

Brown showed New York can count on him as another reliable starting pitcher this postseason — something desperately needed in one of the Yankees' weakest rotations in years. Against 23 batters, Brown threw 22 balls and didn't walk anyone. He gave up eight hits.

"He didn't need to prove anything to me," said outfielder Gary Sheffield, also Brown's teammate with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Hoping to save Minnesota's season, ace Johan Santana will start on three days' rest Saturday against Javier Vazquez. The Yankees, who rallied in the 12th inning to win Game 2 Wednesday after Tim Lincecum's homer put them on the ropes, can eliminate the Twins in four games for the second straight year.



The sound from Minnesota's clubhouse — loud music and confident comments — doesn't suggest a quick end.

"We've been in worse situations," said Jackie Jones, whose first-inning homer accounted for the Twins' only run until the ninth. "Nobody's down."

Jeter went 3-for-5 and Hideki Matsui also homered for New York — just one win away from a rematch with rival Boston in the AL championship series. The Red Sox completed a three-game sweep of Anaheim on Friday.

"I don't care about Boston right now," Jeter said. "We've still got Minnesota to worry about."

If the Twins win Saturday, Game 5 is back in the Bronx on Sunday.

"We're packing our suitcases," said Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire, who will send Brad Radke to pitch against Mike Mussina in the finale, if necessary.

Bernie Williams extended a major league record by hitting his 20th postseason homer, a two-run shot off Carlos Silva that put the Yankees up 5-1 in the sixth.

That was plenty for Brown,

whose first season in New York has been tainted by his ailing back and that infamous tantrum during a loss to Baltimore on Sept. 3 in which he broke his non-throwing hand by punching a clubhouse wall.

The Yankees were angry about his outburst, but he cleared the air by apologizing a few days later.

"I think most of the guys understood where the frustration was coming from," Brown said, "and that it was not something that I did because I didn't care about the team. Quite the opposite."

On offense, the Yankees showed they can do more than go deep — hitting five straight two-out singles to take a 3-1 lead in the second and mute the crowd of 50,803.

"A huge sigh of relief, obviously, on my part," Brown said.

Silva failed to get an out in the sixth, allowing 10 hits and six runs. But the Twins will put Santana, their Cy Young candidate, up against Vazquez, New York's struggling right-hander, in Game 4.

"I'll take my chances with those guys," Hershiser said.

Minnesota scored three times in the ninth, but Mariano Rivera got three straight outs after entering with the bases loaded. The Twins had their chances against Brown. Michael Cuddihy sprang four runners on base in his first two at-bats, and Jones grounded into a double play in the third.

Believe it or not, Boston fans rooting for hated rivals

BY JOHN HARPER
New York Daily News

Commentary

BOSTON — If the Red Sox had won this kind of game against another Yankees, a game it seemed they'd blown as only they can, even the most fatalistic of fans would be insisting that once and for all, The Curse is over.

As it was, Friday's wild 8-6 victory over the Angels seemed to further embolden a Red Sox Nation that wants to believe this is the year.

After all, only minutes after David Ortiz had hit his 10th inning, game-winning home run, delirious fans spilling out into the crowded corridors of Fenway Park quickly turned their attention to their obsession with their hated rivals, chanting the most famous chant in New England: "Yankees [stink], Yankees [stink]," they sang in unison amid individual cries of, "Bring 'em on. We want the Yankees."

Finally winning a World Series, it seems, won't be enough for the people who have waited so long for a championship unless they knock off the Yankees along the way.

Even before the Sox had finished off the Angels, it seemed all

of New England had turned its eyes toward the Yankees, actually rooting for them for a change to set up the ALCS rematch.

"GO YANKS," blared the front-page headline of the Boston Herald, with this rather provocative kicker: "We Want To Kick Your Butts On Our Way To The Series."

In the more conservative newspaper in town, The Boston Globe, lead columnist Dan Shaughnessy, the unofficial keeper of the Curse of the Bambino, urged Sox fans to forget their fears and root for the Yankees to beat the Twins because "the march to the World Series just won't be as much fun without conquering the Empire on enemy soil."

There's an old saying that could apply here — something about being careful what you wish for.

But even the players are on board with this theme. Even as they were spraying champagne on Friday, they couldn't hide their feelings entirely — try as they might not to provide any bulletin-board material.

"Obviously if it's the Yankees it

would be sweeter," said Friday's starter, Bronson Arroyo. "But if it's Minnesota, that's fine too."

You can't blame the Sox and their faithful for being confident. In sweeping the Angels, they now are perfectly set up for the ALCS, with the possibility of Curt Schilling and Pedro Martinez starting five of seven games, while the Yankees may be scrambling to assemble a rotation if they survive against the Sox.

In fact, the way it's looking, the Sox loom as overwhelming favorites in such a scenario.

But then, the Red Sox are still the Red Sox.

Just when they were looking to be rolling at the top of their game, turning Friday's Game 3 into a clinching party with a 6-1 lead after six innings Friday, they reminded everyone that nothing is ever a lock for this franchise.

Mike Timlin gave up a grand slam to Vladimir Guerrero in the seventh, and suddenly the game was tied 6-6. From there the Sox were hanging on, looking for an opening against Francisco Rodriguez.

In the end, the Sox had the Angels to thank for surviving in this one. First, Chone Figgins, who had an absolutely horrendous se-

ries for the Angels, pulled a bases-unraveling blunder that recalled the ghosts of Lonnie Smith and Tim Lincecum on postseasons past.

Then, in a postseason already full of questionable managerial moves, Mike Scioscia made one that will have all of Southern California second-guessing him for months.

He pulled Rodriguez, the phenomenal K-Rod, in the 10th inning after he'd struck out Manny Ramirez for the second time in three innings, and brought in lefty starting pitcher Jarrod Washburn to face the left-handed hitting Ortiz with a man on first.

It took only one pitch for Ortiz to make him pay. Ortiz hitting a hanging breaking ball from the leftfielder into the seats above the Green Monster. Scioscia explained afterward that he'd extended Rodriguez (38 pitches) as far as he thought prudent.

"Did he have three, four, five more pitches in him?" Scioscia asked rhetorically afterward. "We'll never know, but I thought we'd pushed him far enough."

Usually it's the Sox manager who makes the costly move in October, but maybe this is a different October for the team. Red Sox Nation seems sure of it.

So sure, it's rooting for the Yankees at the moment.

Swept: Red Sox return to ALCS

SWEPT, FROM BACK PAGE

"Frankie was at a high pitch count, think he will get a bit tired," Scioscia said. "With a young arm like Frankie's I think you want to err on the side of caution."

Anheim, which has lost seven consecutive games to Boston, failed to make a serious run at repeating its World Series title run of 2002 despite a free-agent spending spree that brought Guerrero, Bartolo Colon, Kelvin Escobar and Jose Guillen.

Troy Glaus also homered for the Angels, who will get no sympathy from Boston, which has been hoping to repeat its magical year of 1918 ever since Ruth was shipped to the Yankees.

Should the Yankees advance, it would give the Red Sox a chance for revenge against the team that won 26 World Series since Boston last won it all. The Yankees knocked the Red Sox out of the ALCS last year when Pedro Martinez couldn't hold a three-run lead in the eighth inning of Game 7, and Aaron Boone homered in the 11th to send New York to the World Series.

SPORTS



Earnhardt: Cursing penalty too harsh, Page 38

Swept up in the excitement

Red Sox finish off Angels in Game 3 on Ortiz's homer in 10th

BY JIMMY GOLEN

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Boston outfielder Gabe Kapler has just one request: Let the Red Sox enjoy their sweep of the Anaheim Angels for a little while before talking about the New York Yankees.

"I know that it's sexy," Kapler said after Boston beat Anaheim 8-6 on David Ortiz's 10th-inning homer to advance to the AL Championship Series for the second straight year. "But I just don't understand why you would cut short a magical, magnificent night to go there."

Johnny Damon got three hits, Ortiz had four, and Boston rode starter Bronson Arroyo to a five-run lead after six innings. But Vladimir Guerrero hit a grand slam off Mike Timlin to tie it 6-4 in the seventh and send the game to extra innings.

Derek Lowe, bounced from the playoff rotation after a horrible September, got out of a first-and-third jam in the top of the 10th and earned the win. Losing pitcher Francisco Rodriguez gave up Damon's leadoff single in the bottom half; two outs later, Angels manager Mike Scioscia brought in Game 1 starter Jarrod Washburn for the lefty-lefty matchup.

Ortiz hit the first pitch over the Green Monster to send the Fenway Park crowd — so quiet since Guerrero's homer — into pandemonium. In the Boston clubhouse, with the lockers covered with plastic, a soaking of beer and champagne mixed with the smoke from victory cigars completed the fratech feast.

With the sweep — just the second in their postseason history — the Red Sox have three days off before starting the ALCS in New York or Minnesota on Tuesday night.

"We'll need a few days after tonight," said outfielder Johnny Damon, who proclaimed the team a band of "idiots" trying to rewrite the record book and ignore Boston's miserable baseball histo-



David Ortiz is mobbed by teammates at home plate after his two-run homer in the 10th inning on Friday completed Boston's three-game sweep of Anaheim in the American League Division Series. The Red Sox will play either Minnesota or the New York Yankees in the AL Championship Series.

ry. "It could have been different, but now we get to relax for a couple of days."

The Yankees beat the Minnesota Twins 8-4 later Friday to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series. But the Red Sox said they don't care who they play in the next round.

"You don't get an extra ring for going through Yankee Stadium," first baseman Kevin Millar said. "That's all we're playing for."

Last year's Red Sox used the theme "Cowboy Up" in the regular season, before they went belly up in the playoffs against the Yankees. This week, Damon declared they were down on "Cowboy Up" and instead were just "idiots" with bad hair and slovenly uniforms who were out for fun on the field.

"We're all idiots here," Ortiz said. "We all have fun. We all hug, kiss, grab, whatever."

Ortiz, Boston's happy-go-lucky MVP contender — one of two, with Manny Ramirez, actually — could be chapter chairman. He doubled and scored when Boston took a 2-0 lead in the third, then doubled in a run in the fourth when Boston made it 5-1.

It was 6-1 in the seventh before Timlin walked Darin Erstad with the bases loaded. Guerrero, also a leading MVP candidate after propelling Anaheim to the AL West

title, tied the game with a dramatic shot to right-center.

Rodriguez pitched two scoreless innings and struck out Ramirez for the second out in the 10th, but Scioscia went with Washburn, who allowed seven runs in 3 1/3 innings to take the loss in the series opener.

He was making his first relief appearance since 1999.

SEE SWEEP ON PAGE 47

Broken hand no distraction for Yankees'

Brown; Astros win Game 3 to take 2-1 lead vs. Braves

Pages 46-47



Bitburg, SHAPE, Ansbach among Saturday's winners on high school gridirons

Page 44



NFL suspends Ravens' J. Lewis two games for pleading guilty in drug case

Page 41

